



J U S T A P E E K B A C K

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(Lest We Forget The Yesteryear)

compiled by

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The thoughtfulness of William F. Hercules in submitting copies of the original letters is greatly appreciated; otherwise, this documentation could never have been compiled.

Thanks also are due Kitty and Larry Benjamin for their support and assistance. Their work in transcribing the original documents represents a vital part of the total effort expended in producing this volume.

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JUST A PEEK BACK

It is believed to be somewhat unusual when a collection of personal letters comes to light 100 and more years after they were written, especially those of ordinary people of rural upbringing. Such letters offer a first-hand glimpse of some conditions that existed when they were written, giving us a rare look at things from a viewpoint normally denied to us in the rhetoric of historians or simply buried by time and forgotten in the progress of our civilization. We are privileged to have the opportunity of reviewing a series of such letters covering a period of roughly 20 years from the early part of the Civil War and extending into the 1880's. Further, they are more than merely an exchange of correspondence between two people. While the main thrust does record the concerns of two people and their immediate family members, there are letters by a number of other relatives to broaden our look at the past.

This material is arranged in chronological order in an effort to provide some measure of continuity and because the circumstances reflect to some degree the conditions that were experienced by the families of early arrivals in DeKalb County, Indiana where settlement was slowed until the mid-1800's largely due to the presence of the impenetrable Great Black Swamp of northwestern Ohio.

Rather than merely presenting photocopies of these letters, they have been "translated" into the form found on subsequent pages. This has been deemed necessary for a variety of reasons; (1st) the penmanship leaves much to be desired; (2nd) the grammar and punctuation also are most primitive; (3rd) there was a real scarcity of money for postage and writing materials which made it desirable to conserve paper to the point that a single sheet sometimes was used for two different letters, completely filled on both sides and with even the narrow margins used for comments (one letter even has lines written in between previously recorded lines); (4th) the crude ink in use often resulted in faint images; and (finally) some expressions of the times necessitated taking minor liberties when transcribing the letters in order to improve their readability. However, a sincere effort has been made to avoid destroying the character of the letters by over-doing the editing in making them easier to read; e.g. some of the misspelled words and grammatical errors have been deliberately retained so as to preserve some of the flavor evident in the original copies.

A small part of one letter is reproduced here to better illustrate why such "translations" were necessary.

11. I have yet in these same old
patch berries that I had some where
I left there and little Henry has
went - harvested of winter for me
what money a wife to pay him after
of which I made me a pair of habits
with forty dollars and I had to
sell them for fifteen to get something
for my children to eat the same
that I could like to have the other
her and the first shows the best kind
tell her that she must not think hard
the case. I don't like to sue for I only
have money a way to send one letter
I was a call to father to day and
he give me same means to eat and
that was the best that

It is not the purpose in presenting this collection of letters to highlight the personal problems outlined in them but rather to give interested readers an opportunity to glimpse a bit of the past. We forget so soon how primitive the conditions were 100 years ago. Events of that time now appear to us as "history" but in fact this interval is merely a tick of the clock in the timetable of our universe. Still so much has happened during this brief period -- muddy byways first improved with gravel have been paved one by one as we took to motorized vehicles until today we can travel most of each year without once traversing an unpaved roadway; then we experienced the advent of travel in the air where no roads are needed and we can exceed the speed of sound at low levels and man has even initiated space travel, going so far as to visit the moon; electronic marvels have increasingly surrounded us in this century and are today an everyday fact of life in our work and recreation. The list of advancements in the fields of science and humanities goes on and on, leap-frogging one another. It is sad to observe, however, that with all of this sophistication, so little has been done to relieve the misery found in many parts of our world in continuation of the same problems reported in earliest history as being brought about by avarice; and, more importantly, there appears to be no end to the barriers constantly arising to confront mankind in the never-ending search for peace throughout the world.

It is hoped that all who read these letters will feel they have gained some individual benefit by reviewing, however briefly, some of the conditions they reveal as having existed in our recent past.

There is a thread of continuity in the letters despite the lack of a main theme and their having been written by so many different people.

Rather than to leave the reader dangling, it is believed helpful to provide an outline of the "members of the cast," so to speak, to better follow the chain of circumstances reported in the letters. Our main characters are Henry Milliman and his wife Harriet E. Monroe, among whose descendants these letters were handed down. Other principals are, in the main, related members of the Milliman family line and the Monroe family line, one of the latter being Harriet's sister, Jane Monroe, who was the wife of Warren O. Milliman, brother of Henry Milliman. The names of acquaintances and other relatives appearing in the letters are identified where known by this author's remarks added as "notes" on copies of the letters themselves.

MILLIMAN'S

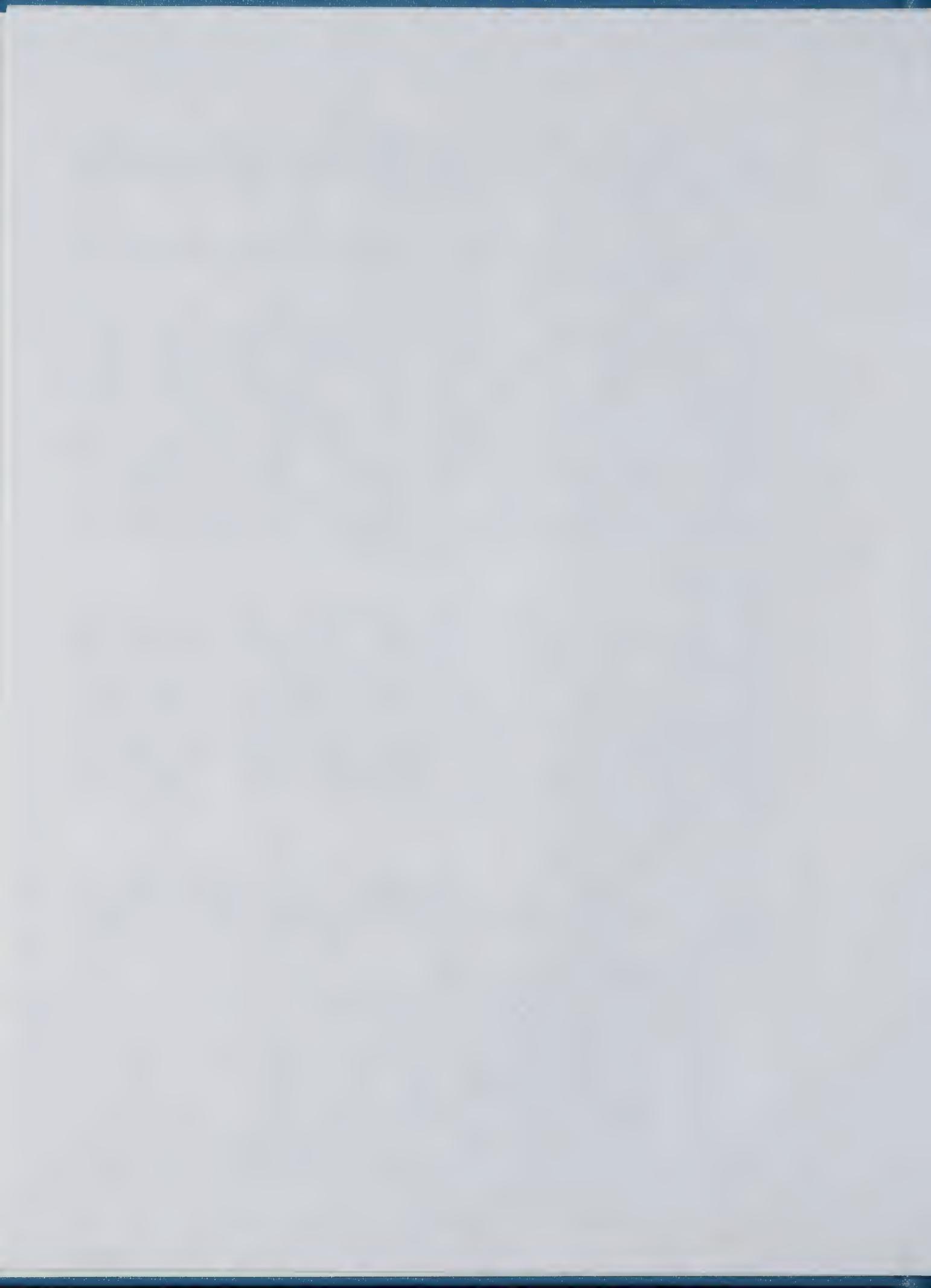
John M. Milliman born 14 APR 1779 in Massachusetts (probably Tyringham, Berkshire Co.), the son of Abiram Milliman and Elizabeth Parks, died 2 MAY 1874 in DeKalb Co., Ind.; he married ca. 1823 in New York (probably Avon, Livingston Co.) Mary Ann Warren born 8 FEB 1805 in New York, her parentage not yet determined, and died 5 AUG 1890 DeKalb Co., Ind. They resided for some years in Niagara Co., New York and then moved westward, spending a period of years (ca. 1836 to 1842) in Cuyahoga Co., Ohio where they resided when purchasing frontier land in DeKalb Co., Ind., removing to this latter place in 1843.

Their children were:

(1) Mary (Polly) b. JUL 1824 N.Y. m. JUL 1845 Russell G. Coburn b. 8 AUG 1825 s. of Ebenezer Coburn and Deliverance Wilson; resided DeKalb Co., Ind. Children: (surname COBURN)

- (a) Augustus B. b. 1848
- (b) Sarah Jane b. 16 MAR 1850
- (c) Phoebe Evanglene b. 7 NOV 1853
- (d) Elsie Ann b. 26 AUG 1857
- (e) Mary Elizabeth b. 10 JAN 1859
- (f) Alva S. b. JAN 1860
- (g) Warren W. b. 6 MAY 1861
- (h) Caroline E. b. ca. 1864
- (i) Harriet A. b. 1 APR 1868

(2) Almira b. 22 SEP 1828 N.Y. m. 14 NOV 1846 Charles





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L - R

Rear: James M. (Mort) Milliman

Wm. H. H. (Henry) Milliman

Charles Coburn

Front: Elizabeth (Milliman) Tibbets

Almira (Milliman) Coburn

Sally Ann (Milliman) Abel



Marble Coburn b. 21 NOV 1827 Trumbull Co., Ohio s. of Ebenezer Coburn and Deliverance Wilson; resided DeKalb Co., Ind. Children: (surname COBURN)

- (a) Harriet E. b. 19 OCT 1847
- (b) Helen A. b. 13 JAN 1849
- (c) Emma A. b. 16 SEP 1850
- (d) Rosalie F. b. 7 DEC 1851
- (e) Agnes E. b. 27 AUG 1853
- (f) William H. H. b. 16 JAN 1857
- (g) Charles Marble Jr. b. FEB 1859
- (h) Otis B. b. ca. 1863

(3) Warren O. (War) b. 1831 N.Y. d. 31 MAR 1862 m. 1 JAN 1856 Jane Monroe b. 21 APR 1834 dau. of Younglove Monroe and Phoebe Cox; resided DeKalb Co., Ind. Children: (surname MILLIMAN)

- (a) Marion F. b. SEP 1856
- (b) John Henry b. 24 OCT 1860

Warren served in the Civil War: enlisted 22 NOV 1861 and died in the hospital at Evansville, Ind. 31 MAR 1862.

Jane m/2 on 7 SEP 1869 Marvin Williams whom she divd. and resumed use of the Milliman name. There was one child by this second union by the name of Willard (Wid) Williams.

(4) Sarah Ann (Sally) b. 6 APR 1832 N.Y. m. 21 JAN 1851 George Dow Abel b. 27 JAN 1830 d. 10 APR 1863 s. of George Homer Abel and Electa Hadsell; resided DeKalb Co., Ind. Children: (surname ABEL)

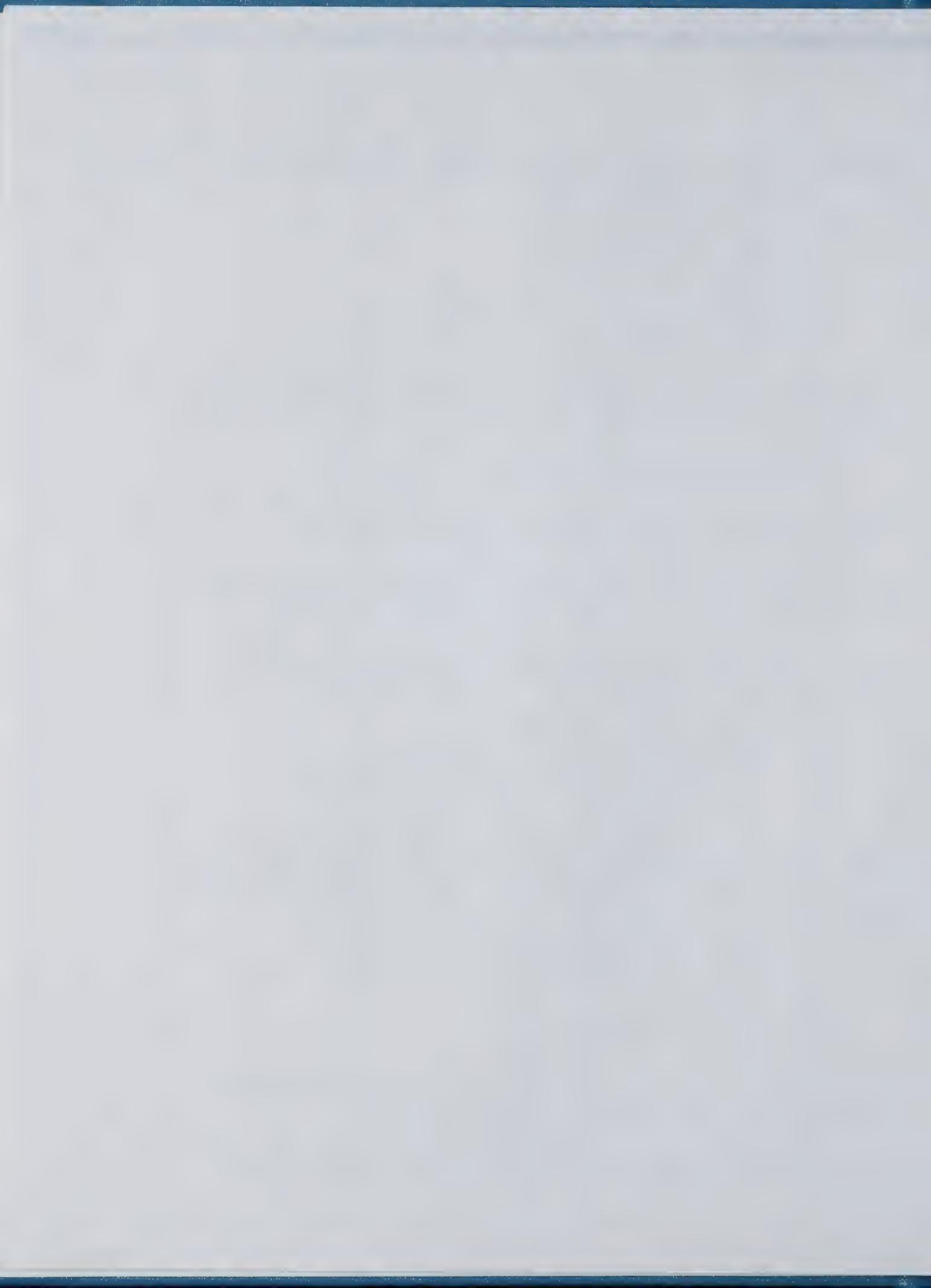
- (a) Wallace E. b. 4 NOV 1851
- (b) Charles Warren b. 5 NOV 1853
- (c) John Calhoun Fremont b. 23 MAY 1856
- (d) Delany Melvind b. 6 JAN 1859 d. 9 SEP 1860
- (e) Electa Ann (Kit) b. 15 MAY 1863

(5) James Mortimer (Mort) b. 24 JAN 1835 N.Y. m. 13 JUL 1859 Mariah Cassidania Alton b. 23 MAR 1841 dau. of Benjamin Alton and Francis Hoyt; resided briefly at Muskegon Co., Mich. but mainly at DeKalb Co., Ind. Children (surname MILLIMAN)

- (a) Amelia Estella b. 1863
- (b) Albert A. b. 1865
- (c) George W. b. FEB 1868
- (d) Retta b. 1870
- (e) Clifford E. b. APR 1873
- (f) Fanny b. SEP 1878
- (g) John Dow b. 30 SEP 1882

James served in the Civil War; mustered in 22 NOV 1861 and discharged for disability (wounded) AUG 1862.

(6) John Bryant (Bry) b. 20 MAR 1839 Ohio m. 28 OCT 1860 Mary A. Coburn b. 1837 dau. of John H. Coburn and Sally Ann



Root; resided DeKalb Co., Ind. Children: (surname MILLIMAN)

- (a) Ellsworth L. b. 8 MAY 1861 d. 30 OCT 1887
- (b) John B. b. 31 MAR 1863 d. 11 DEC 1875

John served in the Civil War; mustered in 21 OCT 1864 and discharged 21 JUL 1865, about six weeks before his death.

(7) William Henry Harrison (Tip) b. 26 SEP 1840 Ohio m. 10 OCT 1861 Harriet Elizabeth Monroe b. 20 JAN 1841 Ohio dau. of Younglove Monroe and Phoebe Cox; resided mainly DeKalb Co., Ind. Children: (surname MILLIMAN)

- (a) William R. b. 14 FEB 1840 d. 26 OCT 1864
- (b) Harry M. b. 1871/72
- (c) Frank Leslie b. 2 SEP 1878

Henry, as he was commonly known, served in the Civil War; enlisted 23 SEP 1861 and was discharged 28 OCT 1862 due to disability. He re-enlisted 26 FEB 1864 and was mustered out 15 JUL 1865. During Henry's first term of Military service, wife Harriet resided with his parents.

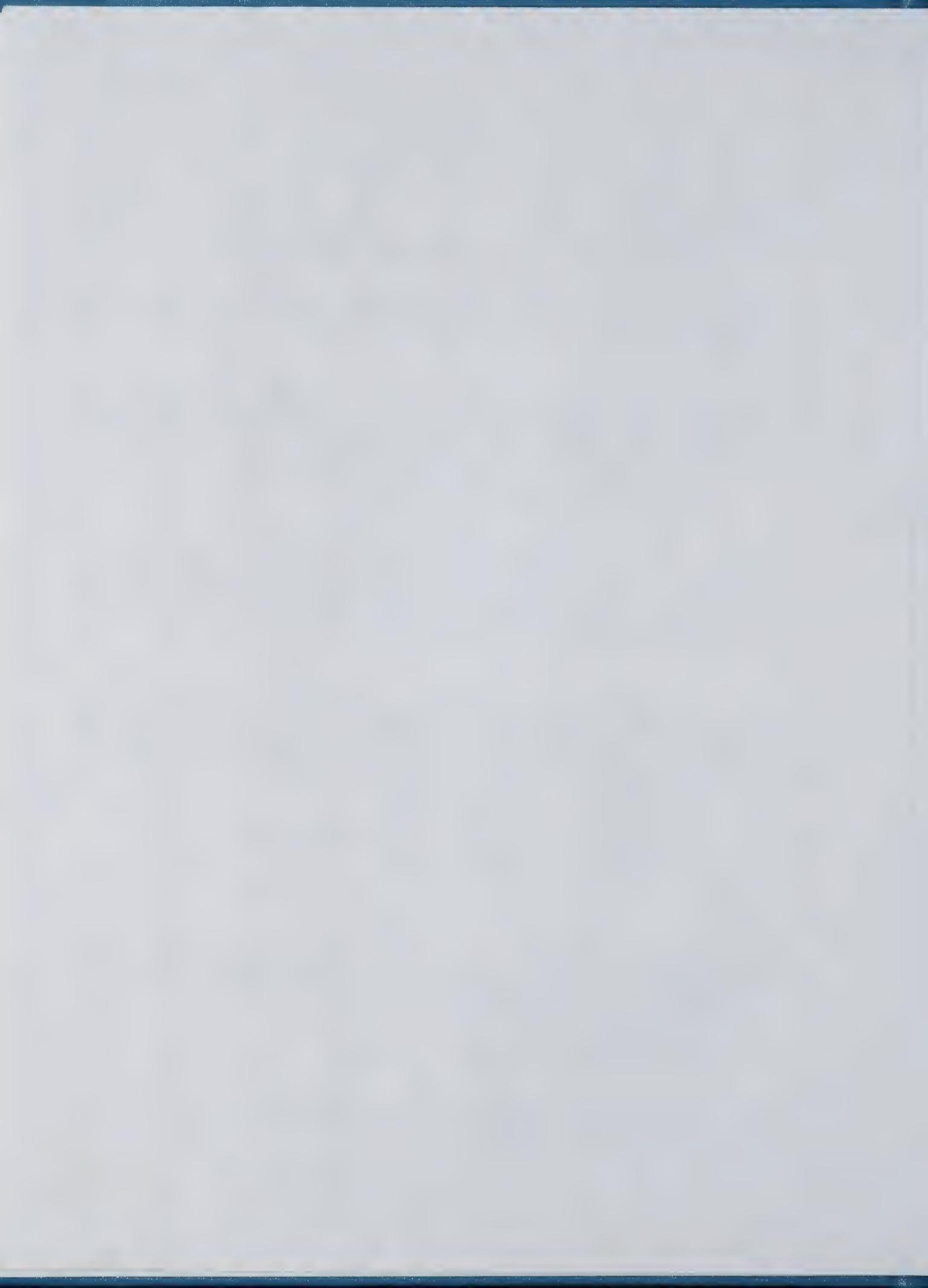
(8) Margaret Elizabeth (Maggie or Libby) b. 9 MAR 1845 Ind. m/1 on 6 NOV 1864 James Brownlee who d. 14 MAY 1865 (measles) and she m/2 on 4 SEP 1868 Joseph Shepard Tibbits; resided Newaygo Co., Mich. Children: (surname TIBBITS)

- (a) Jennie T. b. 16 JUL 1869
- (b) inf. b. & d. 19 JUL 1870
- (c) Willard B. b. 12 NOV 1871
- (d) Bertie b. 19 AUG 1873 d. 24 SEP 1873
- (e) Bertha E. b. 28 MAR 1876
- (f) John A. b. 17 OCT 1877

(9) Joel Abiram (Bile) b. FEB 1848 Ind. m. 29 DEC 1870 Mary C. Andress b. JUN 1855 Ohio dau. of David Andress and Julia A. Bowman; resided Newaygo Co., Mich. and Kent Co., Mich. Children: (surname MILLIMAN)

- (a) Maud b. 1873
- Reportedly three other ch. d. inf.

Joel served in the Civil War; mustered in 7 MAR 1864 and discharged 29 AUG 1865.



MONROE'S

Younglove Monroe was born ca. 1805 in New York State and is believed to have died between 1870 and 1880 at poss. Defiance Co., Ohio, his parentage not yet determined, married first prob. ca. 1825 to Phoebe Cox born ca. 1808 in Vermont and died probably ca. 1855 in Lorain Co., Ohio, her parentage not determined.

Their children were: (surname MONROE)

(1) Albert born ca. 1826 in Ohio (prob. Lorain County), living JUL 1865, married ca. 1847 in Ohio to Emily --?-- born ca. 1828 in Ohio. Albert's occupation in 1850 was farming at Camden Twp., Lorain Co., Ohio.

Their children were: (surname MONROE)

- (a) Melvin b. ca. 1848 Ohio
- (b) Alace b. 30 JUN 1850 Ohio

(2) Orin N. born ca. 1830 in Ohio (prob. Lorain Co.) died between 1890 and 1900 prob. at Galion, Crawford Co., Ohio, married poss. ca. 1855 Julia A. --?-- born Oct 1838 in Ohio. Orin was occupied in the building of railroad cars at Norwalk, Ohio and as a farmer.

Their children were: (surname MONROE)

- (a) Albert W. b. MAR 1859 in Ohio m. 25 OCT 1881 Galion, Ohio to May E. Armacost b. APR 1861 in Ohio.
Their children were: (surname MONROE)
 - (i) Otho b. SEP 1882 Ohio
 - (ii) Paul b. JUL 1885 Ohio
- (b) Eugene b. ca. 1860 in Ohio
- (c) Bella b. OCT 1880 in Ohio

(3) William A. b. JUL 1832 at Amhurst, Lorain Co., Ohio and d. between 1900 and 1910 prob. at Defiance Co., Ohio m. poss. ca. 1853 to Isabella --?-- b. NOV 1836 in Ohio and believed to have died ca. 1910. William served during the Civil War in Co. D, 155th Ind. Inf. having enlisted at Maysville in Allen Co., Ind. on 13 MAR 1865 and mustered out at Wilmington, Delaware on 4 AUG 1865 where he had been assigned as a cook. He was a farmer in civilian occupation.

It is apparent from the place of birth of their first two children that William and Isabella spent the early years of their married life in Iowa although nothing further is known about them in this period.

Their children were: (surname MONROE)



(a) Albert C. b. 15 MAY 1855 in Iowa d. 15 AUG 1924 DeKalb Co., Ind. m. ca. 27 APR 1877 Phoebe E. Coburn b. 7 NOV 1853 d. 11 DEC 1918 dau. of Russell E. Coburn and Mary Milliman. Their children were:

- (1) Dowell b. NOV 1877 Ind.
- (2) Clinton b. ca. 1878 Ind.
- (3) Ross b. JAN 1880 Ind.
- (4) Sarah b. OCT 1881 Ind.
- (5) Carl b. 22 JUL 1883 Ind.
- (6) Nora b. 18 MAR 1885 Ind.
- (7) Ralph b. MAR 1887 Ind.

(b) William M. b. DEC 1857 Iowa m. Anna --?-- b. AUG 1866 Ohio. Their children were:

- (1) Helena b. DEC 1889 Ohio
- (2) Cecil b. MAR 1892 ohio
- (3) Ray B. b. JAN 1894 Ohio
- (4) Benjamin b. JAN 1898 Ohio

(c) Henry b. SEP 1862 Ind. m. Ardella --?-- b. AUG 1870 Ohio. Their children were:

- (1) George H. b. OCT 1888 Ohio
- (2) William S. b. FEB 1891 ohio
- (3) Joshaway L. b. MAY 1893 Ohio
- (4) Forrest B. b. APR 1895 Ohio

(d) Anna b. DEC 1864

(e) Cory (m) b. ca. 1868

(f) George b. SEP 1874 Ohio m. Ida Townsend b. SEP 1882 Ohio. Their children were:

- (1) Claren (m - twin) b. JAN 1900 Ohio
- (2) Clara (f - twin) b. JAN 1900 Ohio

(g) Haneford b. FEB 1876

(4) Jane C. b. 21 APR 1834 prob. Lorain Co., Ohio d. 18 NOV 1913 DeKalb Co., Ind. married first on 1 JAN 1856 Warren O. Milliman b. 1831 in New York State and died 31 MAR 1862 during service in the Civil War, son of John M. Milliman and Mary Ann Warren. Their children were: (surname MILLIMAN)

- (a) John Henry b. 24 OCT 1860
- (b) Marion F. b. SEP 1865

After Warren's death, Jane married second on 7 SEP 1869 and later divd. Marvin Williams. Their children were: (surname WILLIAMS)



Their children were: (surname WILLIAMS)

(a) Willard (Wid) b. 23 SEP 1870 d. APR 1942 m. 23 SEP 1891 to Ida Scholes b. 12 JAN 1864 d. 13 NOV 1942. Their children were:

- (1) Mark
- (2) Frank
- (3) Howard
- (4) Mabel who m. Wm. Refner
- (5) Lois who m. Elmer McKay
- (6) Florence who m. Hugh Wood

After divorcing Marvin Williams, Jane resumed use of the Milliman surname for the balance of her years.

(5) Henry L. born ca. 1839 Lorain Co., Ohio died 16 MAY 1862 (reportedly due to "fever") in a hospital at St. Louis, Missouri during his service in the Civil War. He was enrolled at Waterloo, Ind. on 23 SEP 1861 in Co. F, 44th Reg't. Indiana Infantry and saw duty at Chattanooga, Tenn. before being hospitalized. His occupation upon enlistment was given as "farmer" and his description as height 6 feet 2-1/4 inches, dark complexion, blue eyes, and d. brn. hair.

(6) Harriet Elizabeth born 20 JAN 1841 Lorain Co., Ohio d. 29 JAN 1917 DeKalb Co., Ind. married 10 OCT 1861 to William Henry Harrison (Tip) Milliman b. 26 SEP 1840 Cuyahoga Co., Ohio d. 30 AUG 1924 DeKalb Co., Ind. son of John M. Milliman and Mary Ann Warren. In occupation, Henry was a school teacher, a farmer, a carpenter, and also engaged in the moving of buildings and the clearing of wooded areas. The family residence was maintained in DeKalb Co., Ind. except for an interim period of 12 years when residing at Hicksville, Ohio.

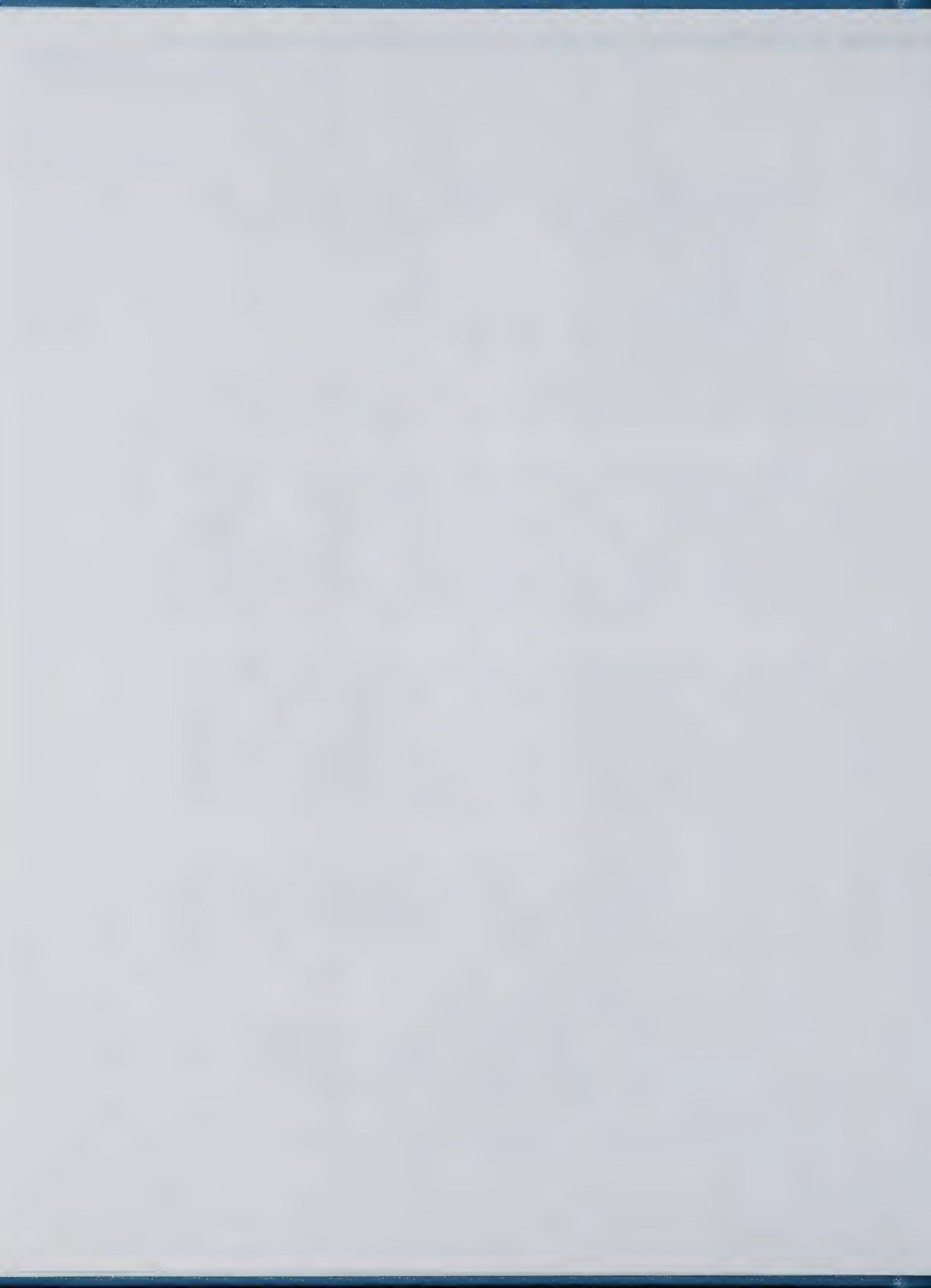
Henry Milliman served during the Civil War, enlisting 23 SEP 1861 in Co. F, 44th Reg't. Vol. Inf. and discharged for disability on 28 OCT 1862. He again enlisted 26 FEB 1864 in the 88th Inf. Co. H and transferred 1 MAR 1864 to the 38th Inf. Co. F and mustered out 15 JUL 1865.

Their children were: (surname MILLIMAN)

- (a) William R. b. and d. 1861
- (b) Harry Melville b. 1871 Ind. d. 25 DEC 1933 Edon, Ohio m. 14 DEC 1894 Georgia L. Brown b. NOV 1872 d. 3 MAR 1943 dau. of George R. Brown and Martha J. --?--. Harry was a druggist in occupation.

Their children were:

- (1) Waldo b. 2 DEC 1899 d. 18 NOV 1955
- (2) Betty Lenore b. 7 APR 1903 d. 5 Oct 1980



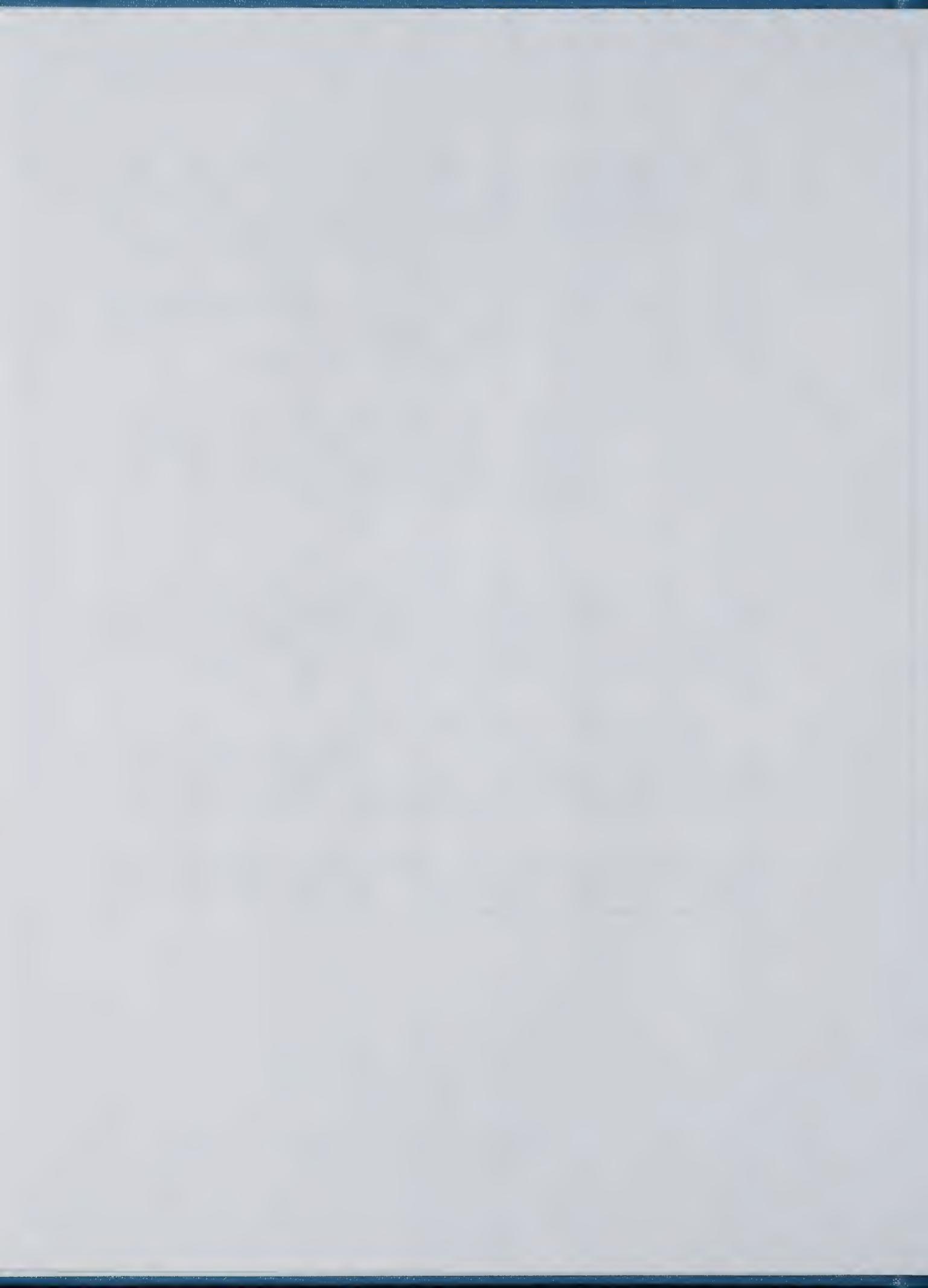
(c) Frank Leslie b. 2 SEP 1878 d. 7 SEP 1930 m. 1891
Elizabeth A. Shuff b. 1883 d. 17 MAY 1977 dau. of
Hillary Shuff and Mary Hull. Their children were:
(1) Marguerite Mildred b. 5 NOV 1902 d. ca. 20 OCT
1977 Tyler, TX m. 30 JUN 1927 Adelbert George
Hercules b. ca. 1900 d. 30 SEP 1939. Their
children were:
(1) William F. b. 1928 m. 1950 Lois Fikes and
resides at Fort Worth, TX. Their children:
(i) Kathy Ramona b. 1951
(ii) William F. Jr. b. 1952
(iii) Mary Lou b. 1963
(2) Leota H. b. ca. 1904 d. 11 NOV 1979 m. Millard
E. Gruber. Their children:
(1) Millard E. Jr. b. 1 MAR 1926 d. 18 OCT 1970
m. Jeanne M. Girardot.
(2) Richard Lee b. 10 OCT 1928 m. Miriam L.
White.

After the death of his first wife, Younglove Monroe removed from Ohio to Indiana in 1856 where he married a second time on 17 JUL 1856 in DeKalb Co., Ind. to Henrietta Closson b. ca. 1820 in Ohio and died poss. ca. 1867. Their children were:

(a) Henrietta b. ca. 1858 Ind.

This apparently was Henrietta's second marriage inasmuch as she had a son named Tommy born ca. 1845 in Indiana. It appears that this son was known as Tommy Monroe although it is not believed that he was adopted by Younglove Monroe.

Following the death of his second wife, Younglove Monroe married a third time on 26 OCT 1868 in DeKalb Co., Ind. to Lydia Baird b. ca. 1820 in Ohio. Nothing further presently is known about this third wife.



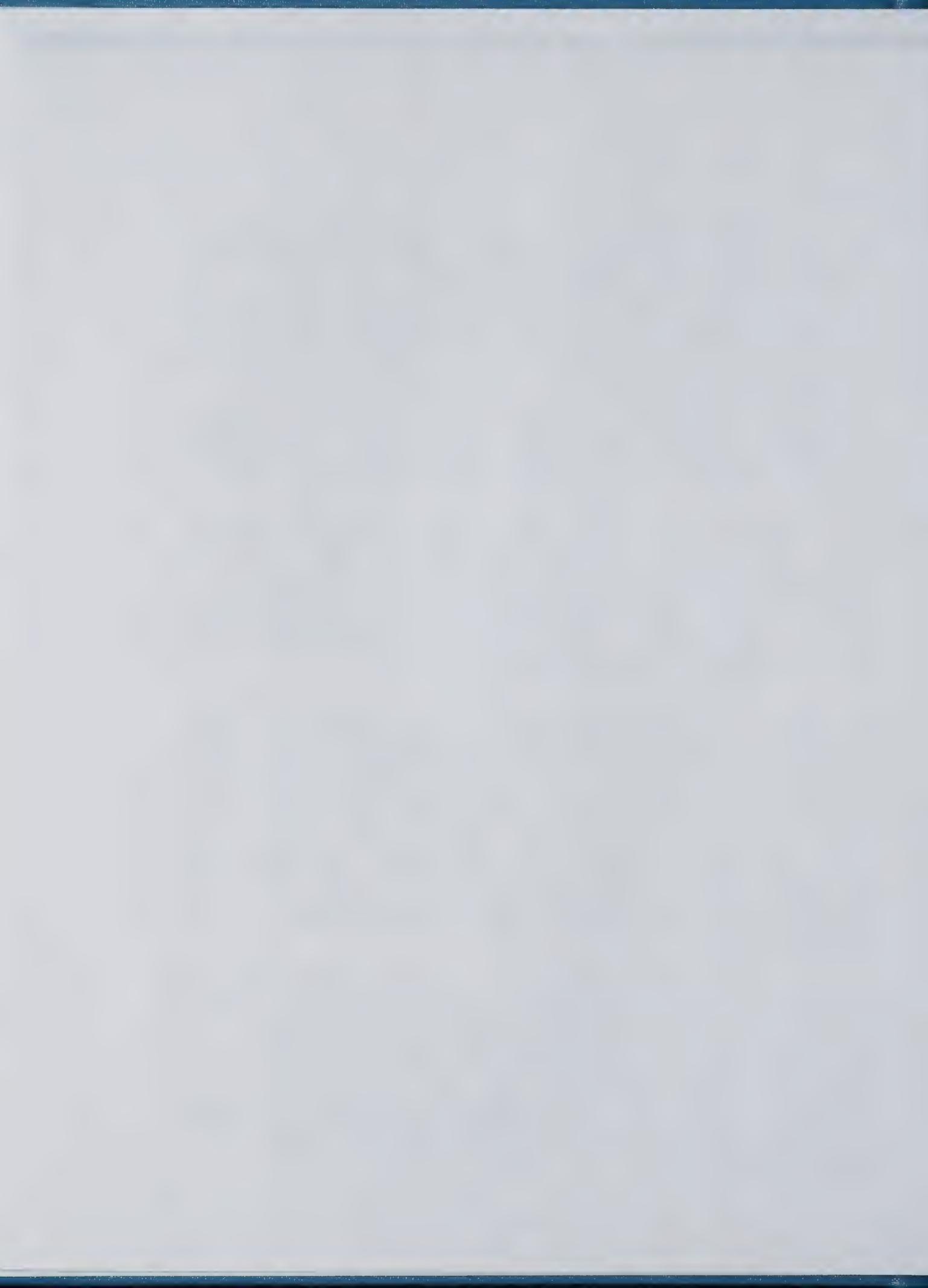
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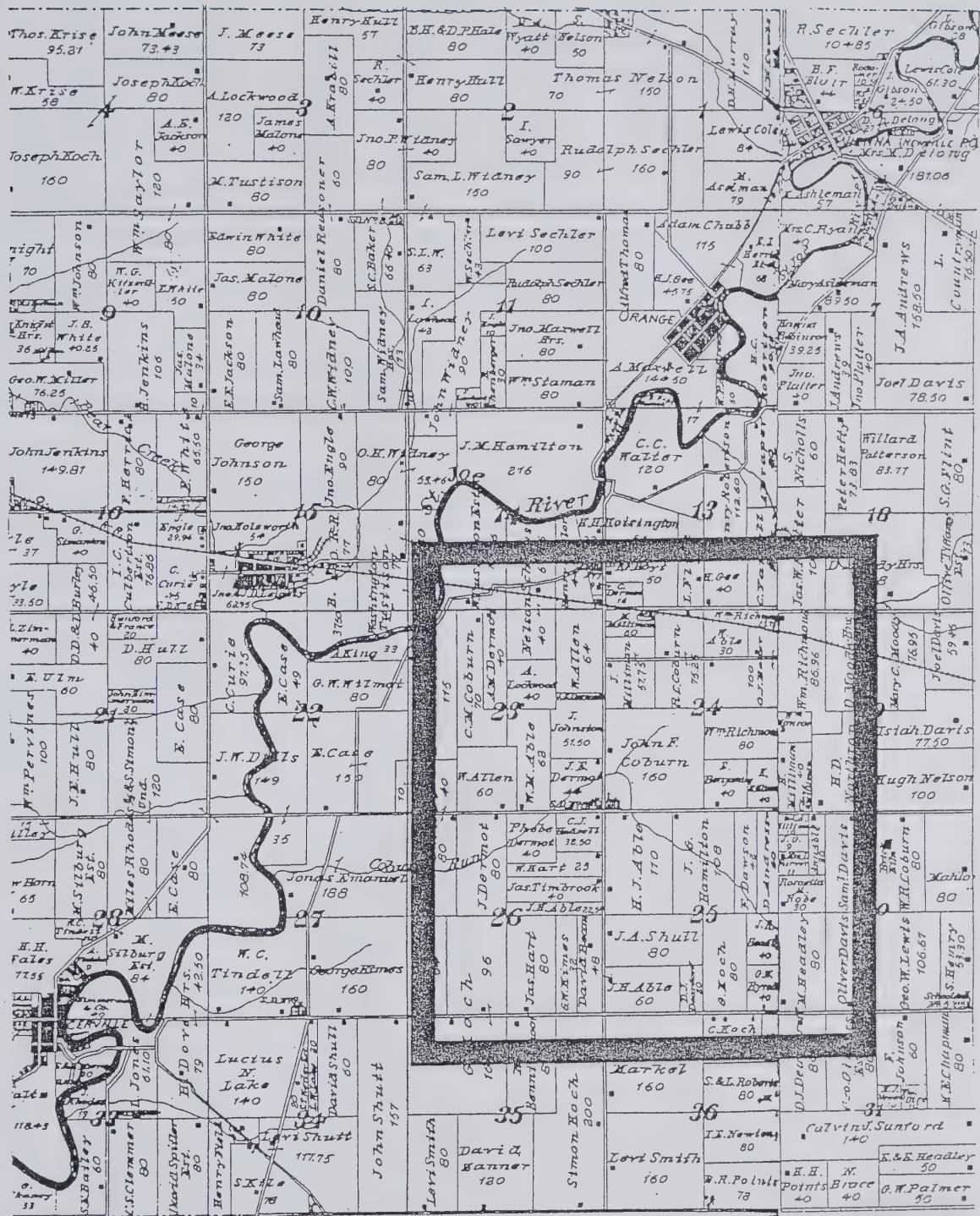
There are included with these letters some photocopies of envelope covers received separately which are matched with letters as accurately as possible. The reader's attention is called to the utter simplicity of the addresses that were used which gives rise to some amazement that mail could be successfully handled with no more information than shown. Of course, many of the letters were going to a small community in DeKalb County, Indiana where most residents probably were well known by all who lived in the area so it is not too surprising that mail for anyone living there could be satisfactorily delivered with so little information. Even then, it is a wonder that letters could be readily handled when addressed, for instance, to Coburn's Corner where no town nor post office ever existed at all.

Even more remarkable is the fact that letters addressed to a person whose only address was "DeKalb County, Indiana" seemed to pose no problem at all for the postal system of those early days. While it is granted that the total population of this county was relatively small compared to other areas, it still is remarkable that such a simple address could suffice. Mail going to other States also was delivered without a detailed address so we can assume that this was a general practice across the land.

An example of supreme achievement is the envelope addressed to Denver, Colorado at a time when the population there already had reached about 40,000 people. It now seems a little short of miraculous that a letter could be processed for delivery when the address was so lacking in detailed information. Even if the mail were picked up at the post office, it still was remarkable to effect delivery with so little information -- a feat certainly well beyond the scope of today's modern (?) techniques. At the risk of inviting criticism, if any lesson is to be drawn from this comparison of old and new postal handling, it would have to be that today's terms "complex" and "sophisticated" do not necessarily imply "better."

Most of the letters coming to Indiana were destined for various points in DeKalb County; chiefly Newville, Blair, and Coburn's Corner. Newville had previously been called "Vienna" but by the 1860's the present name "Newville" was well established. The town called "Blair" really refers to what later became known as "St. Joe" as it is today. "Coburn's Corner" was just one of many rural communities often consisting of a crossroads locations, perhaps identified with the name of a local resident and having no commercial enterprise but possibly being the site of a church or school.





Southeastern DeKalb County, Indiana (1880)

(enclosed area shows the location of various Milliman families)



Other such non-town places in DeKalb County that readily come to mind are: "Coletown," "Hopewell," "Orangeville," "Hursh Town," "Israel," "Scipio," and "Concord." The designation, "Israel" is one that is rarely encountered but is believed to have applied to the area which later became known as "Cheesetown" after cheese was produced there for some period of years. This area now is commonly called "Alton" because of the cemetery there which bears this name, the land for it having been donated by Benjamin Alton, founder and first minister of the Church of Christ at nearby Coburn's Corner.

The John M. Milliman homestead was located in the area thought to have been called, "Israel."

"Coburn's Corner," also known as "Coburntown," is the only one of these secondary communities that has popularly retained its identity to the present time, this being due to the fact that the Church of Christ at this location was formed in 1837 and land for erecting a building was donated by the Coburn family. This church bears the distinction of being the first organized church in DeKalb County, having progressively flourished since the time of its founding and having spawned from the congregation a number of ministers who promoted spread of the faith in many areas across the country.

In general, this collection of old letters involves families that resided in the southeastern part of DeKalb County, particularly during the Civil War years. It should be remembered that there was a special closeness among the families then living in this area which can be attributed to the fact that they participated as pioneer settlers in opening and clearing the land there. A natural barrier in the form of a great swamp located in northeastern Ohio had discouraged until the early 1830's any influx of settlers from the eastern States. Those who finally came at that time shared the difficult pioneer life and worked together to defeat the wilderness and establish their religion and schools. Too, there were many marriages between these families over the years that promoted a sort of homogenous relationship among the residents. The reader may detect in these old letters some expressions indicating that there was more than a casual amount of interest and concern regarding the well-being of friends and neighbors as well as relatives.

The end of the Civil War brought with it a period of years when the general populace became much more mobile. New frontiers opened to the West as land became available for settlement; also, military service often was rewarded by an opportunity to occupy bounty land. These developments, together with an expanding population, sparked a wave of

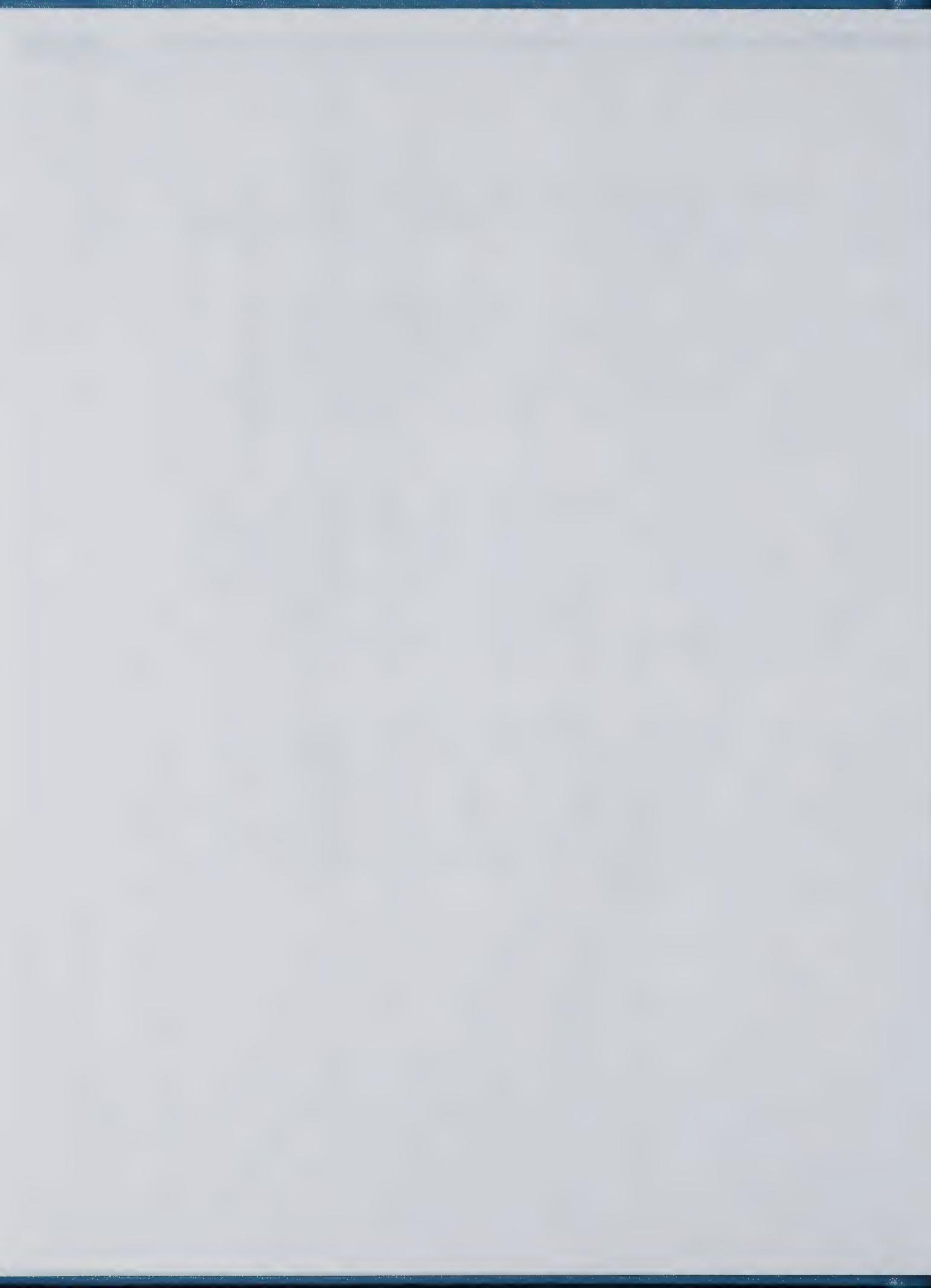


business opportunities and opening for employment in the fields of transporation and industry that encouraged individuals and families to move on in their continuing effort to better their lot.

At the same time, there occurred some reshuffling of land holdings in Indiana and Michigan that affected a number of families from DeKalb County, principally in relocating to Muskegon County, Newaygo County, and Kent County in Michigan. Some of these families later returned to DeKalb County but others became permanent residents of Michigan. The Milliman's were among those who tried their hand in Michigan for a few years but most of them did return to DeKalb County, Indiana.

While the affect of these changes on the Milliman's is well known, the trail of the Monroe's is now somewhat less apparent. We do know that two of Younglove Monroe's sons resided in Ohio where one of them remained (in Crawford County) while the other one went on with his family to spend some time in Michigan before giving up there and again locating in Ohio (near Hicksville in Defiance County). Exactly where and on what dates these moves were made is not a matter of record, nor is it known what successvie movements may have transpired among these and other related Monroe families.

It should be noted here that Henry Milliman tried desperately to disspell the health problems he developed during his service in the Civil War. He sought out the mineral spas reported to have great curative benefits, spending two years at Rhea Springs in Tennessee and also investigating sites in Florida and Idaho as he continued his search for relief. There is no record of any success he may have obtained in his search but when Henry Milliman died in 1924, it was less than four weeks before he would have reached his 84th birthday.



Camp Allen
Oct. 22nd 1861

Dear Wife:

I received your letter this afternoon and was glad to hear from you but was very sorry to hear that you are so unwell. Long have I cherished the hope that you would have better health, but sometimes I almost despair. Yet I cannot bear the thought that you will always have to suffer as you do now. I hope that you will be better as it comes cooler weather.

My health is as good as usual and the rest of the folks are in good spirits. There is but very little sickness in camp at present and most of the boys seem to enjoy themselves very well. I would feel better if you had good health. It is hard to be away from you when you are so poorly. I trust you are among friends that will be true to you in time of need. Be careful of your health. Don't overdo yourself for it will make you sick.

As for your teaching school, you can judge the best. If you do teach, have it understood that some of the larger scholars make all the fires and such things. If you do not get better I would not try it at all.

Dress parade is close at hand and I must close. Come down Friday if you feel able and we can talk with one another face to face. Goodbye.

This from your affectionate husband,

Henry Milliman
to Harriet Milliman

NOTE: (CEB)

Camp Allen was located at Fort Wayne, Ind. where enlistees received some preliminary training before being moved to a larger training center at Indianapolis, Indiana.



Camp Allen
Oct. 31st (1861 CEB)

Dear Wife and Sister:

We received your letter and provisions yesterday and improve a few spare moments this morning in answering your kind letter and to let you know how we are getting along. We are all well at present and I hope these few lines will find you in the enjoyment of the same invaluable blessing.

We were mustered into the United States Service last Tuesday and I expect we will get our uniforms soon but I don't know. I don't expect we will leave much under two weeks. I would like to come home once more but I don't expect I can get off again.

You must try to keep up good courage and get along the best you can. We will be careful of ourselves and strive to do our duty to the best of our ability, hoping when the war is over to return and enjoy each other's society as long as life shall last.

It is about drill time and I must close. I will send some of my clothes home to be washed and would like to have you send them back Monday, if you can, by Marshall Hadsell. If you can't send them by him, send them as soon as you can.

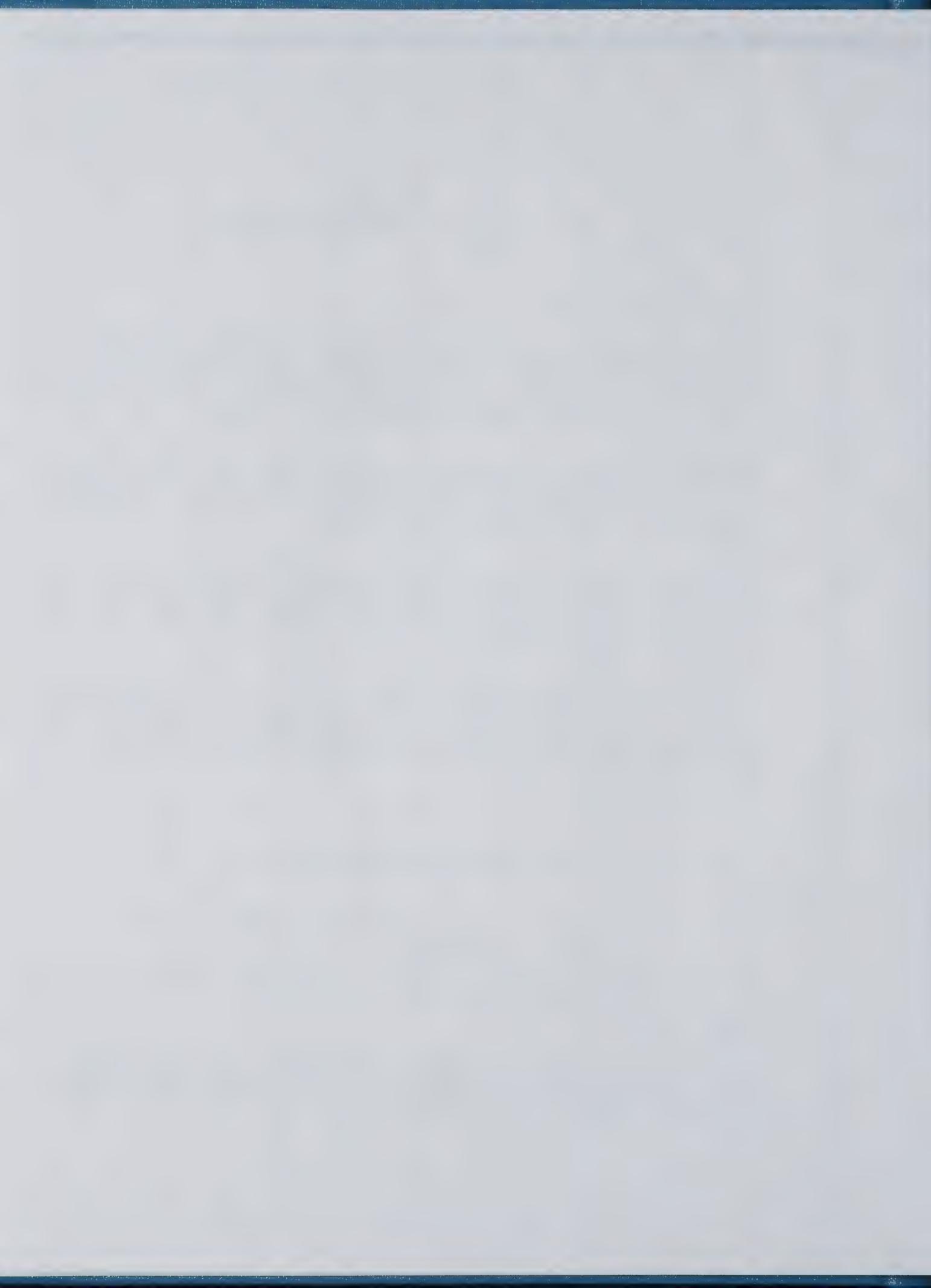
Goodbye for this time.

This from your affectionate husband and brother.

Henry Milliman
to Harriet and Jane Milliman

NOTE: (CEB)

"Jane Milliman" actually was Henry's sister-in-law, wife of his brother Warren Milliman. It was an early custom within a family unit to regard in-laws the same as blood relatives and to address them in an equivalent manner.



Camp Reed
Nov. 25th, 1861

Dear Wife:

I now take a few spare moments to let you know how we are situated and how we are getting along. We are all well, stout and fleshy. I weigh only 155 lbs. It's heavier than I ever was before. The rest are getting fat as pigs and just about as dirty, but we don't mind that.

We left Ft. Wayne Saturday about ten and didn't get here till about three in the morning. Two engines broke and it kept us back a good while. We did not get out of the cars till morning, then marched down to camp. Our tents were pitched ready for us. It commenced snowing Friday night and has snowed ever since. We have plenty of blankets. I have a big overcoat that comes down most to the ground, and two woolen blankets besides all we brought with us.

Our camp is just in the southwest corner of town. Our tents are about eight by twelve feet on the ground and just high enough in the middle for a man to stand up and slants off each way to the ground. So the most of us have to sit or lie down when all ten of us are in a tent. There is three other camps about town but I don't know how many men there is in them. Some are cavalry and some are artillery.

I cannot tell you much about the town for I have not been about town a great deal. There is some large buildings. I was up in the capitol today and down to one of the other camps. It was too bad weather to roam around much. There is no knowing when we will leave here but it will not be long. So, if you write while we are here, write soon as you get this.

Tell the rest that we are all well. Tell them to write. Be cheerful, Harriet, and contented as you can. Direct your letters to Indianapolis, Camp Reed, Co. "F" 44th Reg. care of Cap't. Merrill.

Goodbye for this time. From your ever affectionate husband.

Henry Milliman



November the 29th 1861

Dear friend it is with much pleasure tht I take my pen in hand to let you know that I am well at present and hope that these few lines will find you the same. We left Indianapolis at ten o'clock Wednesday night and arrived at Evansville Thursday afternoon at one o'clock. We are on the bank of the Ohio River. The river divides Indiana from Countucy (Kentucky CEB). We got the rest of our uniforms today. We will leave here in a day or two. We will go over the river into Countucy. The river is one mile wide. The folks are very good to us here. They got us a warm dinner when we got here. They say that they are a-fighting in about thirty miles of here. Harriet, I got my likeness and put in Henry Milliman's letter. If you or Jane don't want it you may send it to Albert. Warin (Warren CEB) and Henry is well. We went one mile and a half after straw to sleep on. There is eight in our mess. The Ohio River is one mile wide. We can see old Countucy. We all want to get over there and see what they are a-doing. Harriet, I can't think of anything else to write tonight only that I want you and Jane to write as soon as you get this.

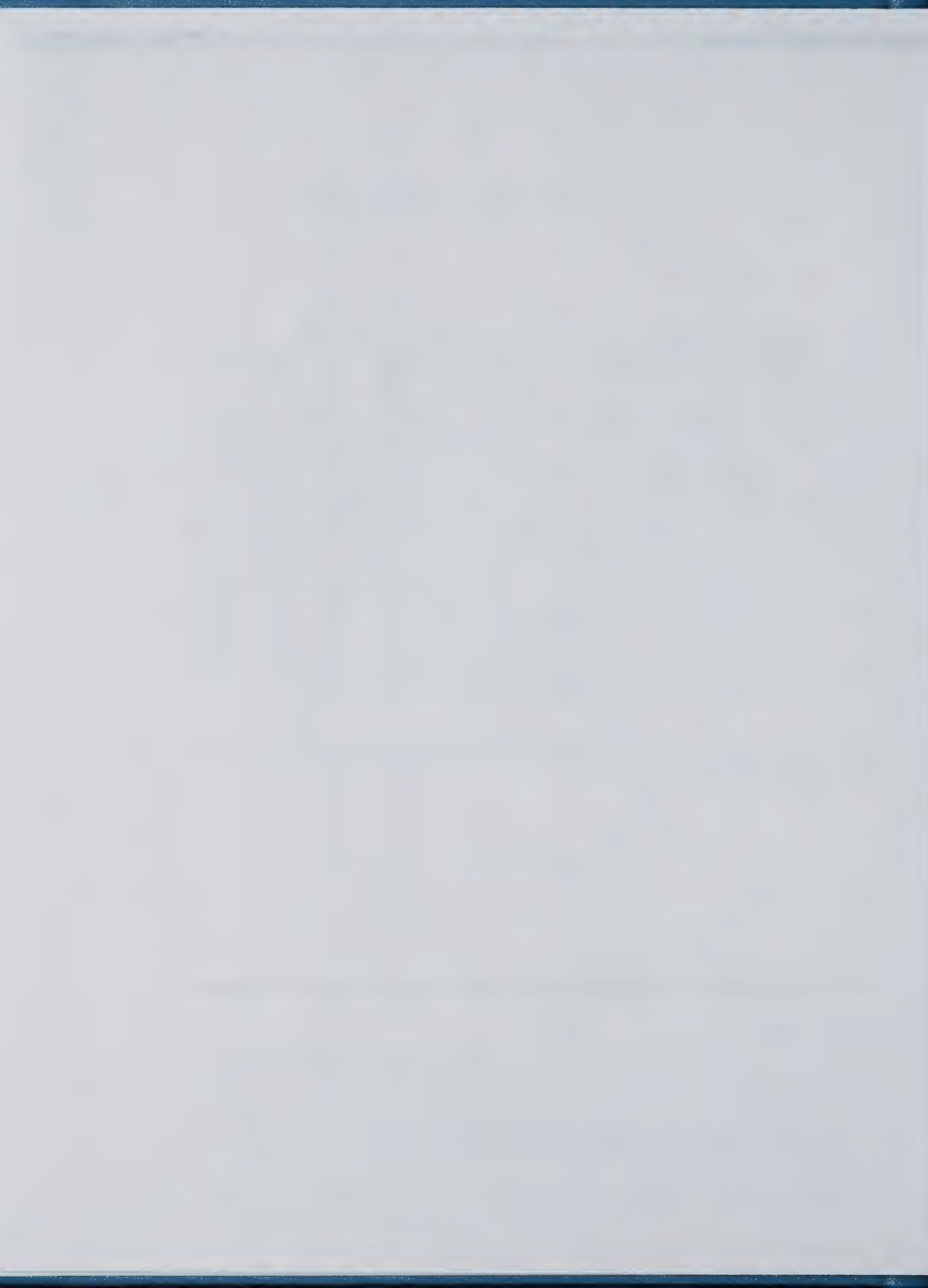
This is from your brother Henry Monroe to his sisters Jane and Harriet Milliman. Send my best respects to all inquiring friends.

I must close. So goodbye.

Write. Write. Write.

NOTES: (CEB)

- (1) "Albert" refers to Albert Monroe, brother of Henry Monroe who wrote this letter.
- (2) "Warrin" refers to Henry Milliman's brother, Warren O. Milliman, who was the husband of Henry Monroe's sister Jane.
- (3) "Henry Milliman" refers to the husband of Henry Monroe's sister, Harriet.



December the 6, 1861

Dear Sisters:

I take my pen in hand to let you know we are all well at present and hope that these few lines will find you the same. I have written you three letters and have not gotten any from you. I begin to think you have forgotten us but I hope not. We are in Evansville and expect we will not leave here for some time. The news is here that they are trying to settle the fuss but they can't tell us what they will do yet. We will hope for the best, but if they can't settle the fuss, we are the boys that can settle it. We drill every day. The troops is a-coming in to Kentucky every day. We won't only have to cross the Ohio River to get into Kentucky too. Dear sisters, I did not send my clothes home with Warren and Henry. I will tell you why. I was on guard duty when they packed up their clothes and David packed my clothes with his and sent them home. If you want you can go and get them. I would like to come home and see you but I can't at present. So I must be contented. I have been to the post office every day to get a letter but none was there. Dear sisters, I want you to write to me and let me know how you are. If I can't see you, I want to hear from you. The weather is very warm here. It seems like June here. If you have got any letter from Orin write to me and let me know how he is a-getting along. I can't think of anything else to write at present so I must close. Don't forget to write as soon as you get this.

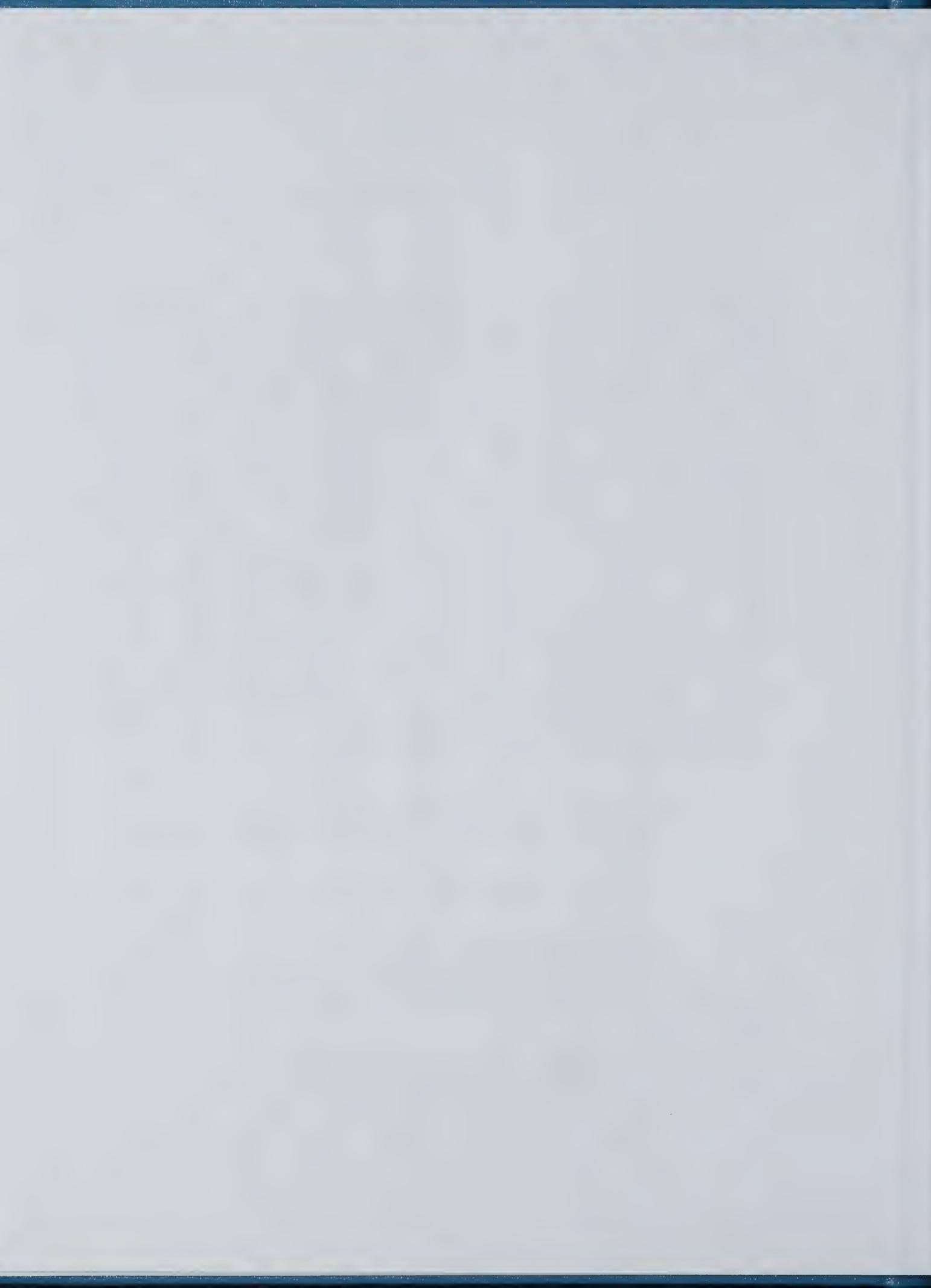
This is from your brother Henry Monroe.
Give my best wishes to all inquiring friends.

Goodbye at present.

from Henry Monroe to
his sisters Jane and Harriet Milliman.

NOTES: (CEB)

- (1) "David" is believed to refer to David Andress.
- (2) "Orin" refers to Orin Monroe, brother of Henry Monroe.



prob. written ca. Dec., 1861

Dear Harriet:

We have finally drawn some money and had it expressed to Edgerton. You can get Charles or someone else to go to the Express office there and get it for you. I sent \$20.00 and Warren thirty. I got \$41.45. I have got to get me a pair of boots and some other things or I could send you more. I will be as saving of it as I can and if I can spare any more when we leave here I will send it to you in a letter. If we had got our's one day sooner we could have sent it by our Captain or Mr. Dickerson who went home. They went Thursday and those in the hospital didn't get their pay until Friday.

We are in the Marine hospital at Evansville. There are three large hospitals here in town and they are all crowded. More coming from the different regiments every few days. There must be, I should think, nearly a thousand sick and wounded here. The last we heard from the regiment, they were all in rather poor health. I am in hopes they will enjoy better health when the weather gets more settled.

Dear Harriet, I am sorry I could not get you any money sooner. I know you must have needed it very much. I think we will draw our pay more regular after this.

I must close. Harriet, use your money as you see fit and get whatever you need. Direct your letters the same as usual. They will be looked over here and all that belong to the hospital will be taken out. Write often and write all the news.

Goodbye. This from you ever fond and affectionate husband.

Henry Milliman

to his ever loving wife, Harriet Milliman



(not dated)

(no salutation)

Now, I will try and tell you about some of the rest of the folks. Charles' folks are all well and want to see you very bad. Father's folks are well. Father was here yesterday and I sent up word by Emma to tell mother to be sure and come down with him, but she did not come. She said she could not spend time. Russell's folks are all well as usual. Polly's health is not very good at present. William's folks were down here a few nights ago and stayed with us all night. They are a-going to move two miles and a half from Maysville. Father's folks are all well and send their best respects to you all. Robert Robinson was married a few days ago to Miss Goennet (sp?).

The folks are all very kind to me here.

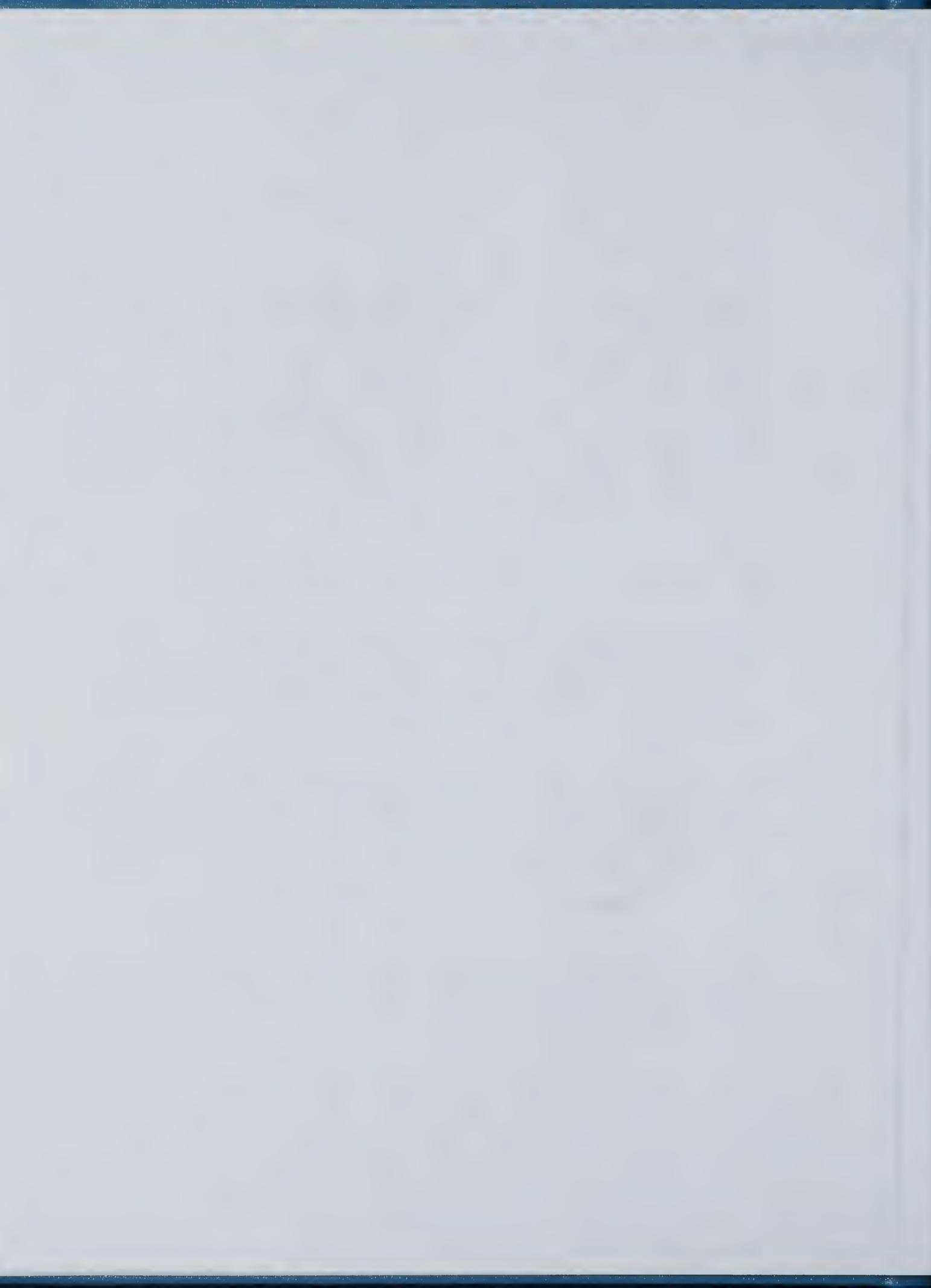
The weather is fine and very warm here at present, although it is very muddy.

There is no market for anything here at all and we have to pay the highest prices for everything we buy. I have not traded any since you left -- only bought some groceries when I was sick, besides my paper and envelopes. All the money I have is what you sent me from Wayne and I have some of that left yet.

I have written all the news at present. A few more words to you and I will close. Oh, dear Henry, do take good care of your health as you can and write to me often. It is a great pleasure to read your kind letters, but I have not had the privilege of reading them very lately -- but I must close. Oh, Henry, don't worry about me and do be careful. Goodbye.

from Harriet Milliman to Henry Milliman

(note written on the margin of the first page): I remain your ever affectionate wife, and think of you often. To my ever loved husband. Farewell.



NOTES: (concerning the preceding letter. CEB)

(1) This letter was over-written on the same piece of paper that contained Henry's letter to Harriet believed to have been written ca. Dec., 1861 and to which she is replying.

(2) "Charles" undoubtedly refers to Charles Coburn, husband of Almira Milliman, sister of Henry Milliman.

(3) "Emma" is taken to be the daughter of Charles and Almira Coburn.

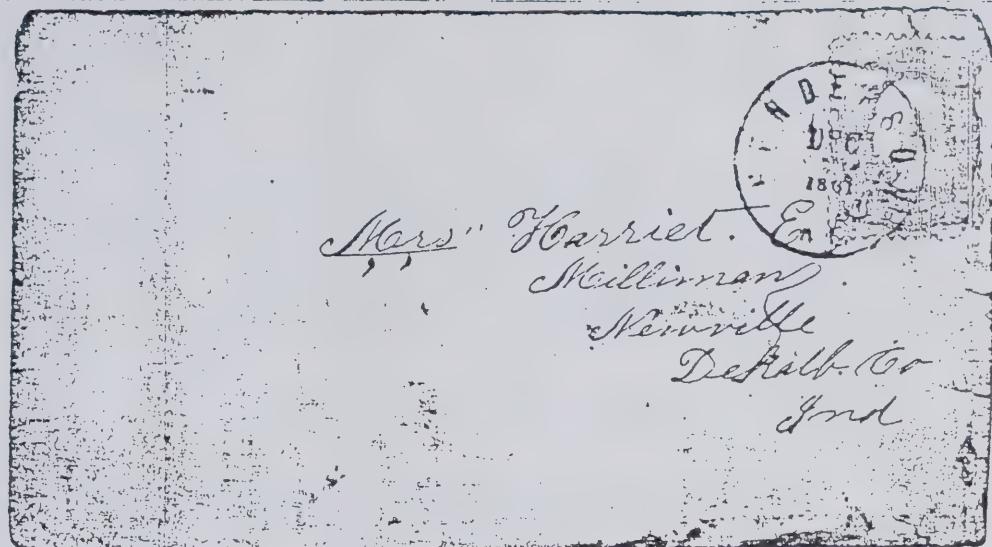
(4) "Mother" in this instance probably pertains to Harriet's step-mother.

(5) "Russell" would be Russell Coburn, husband of Polly (Mary) Milliman, sister of Henry Milliman.

(6) "William" applies to Harriet's brother, William Monroe, who apparently moved from place to place in search of work or other reward.

(7) "Maysville" was a rural area (never a town) on the outskirts of Fort Wayne in Allen County, Indiana that in earlier days had been an Indian trading post.





Henderson, Ky.
Dec. 11th 1861

Dear Wife:

Once more I take my pen in hand to write a few lines to let you know that I am well. I would feel a great deal better if I knew this letter would find you the same. But I am afraid that it will not. Mortimer and Marshall Hadsell got a letter and the sad news came that you was very sick. I was afraid it would be so. I would give most anything if I could be with you if it was but for a little while. I could govern my feelings very well as long as I could hear that you was well. Now you are laid on your bed of sickness and pain and I am over three hundred miles away and cannot have the pleasure of seeing you even for a moment. We must bear it as patiently as we can, hoping that we will see better times. Try and be patient, Harriet, and be careful. I hope you soon regain your health.

We are now in Kentucky, close by a town called Henderson, not a great ways from the river. We have a good place to camp and will probably stay here some time but can't tell for certain. I don't think there is any secession camp near but there is plenty of them scattered around in every direction. More negroes than anything else.

There was an alarm this morning about four o'clock but it turned out to be a false alarm. They all came out in a hurry and felt anxious to have a brush. To warm up, as they say. They was disappointed and it is not very likely they will have much of a chance for some time -- but we may before we think of it. We are ready for them if they do not come more than three to one.



Now, Harriet, a word or two more and I must close for this time. Oh, Harriet, I hope and pray you will regain your health before long. Write as soon as you can and let me know how you get along. Write as often as you can and direct your letters to Henderson, Kentucky in care of Capt. G. W. Merrill, Co. "F", 44th Ind. Vol.

Give my love and respects to all and keep a good share for yourself.

Goodbye. This from your ever affectionate husband.

Henry Milliman

to Harriet Milliman

NOTES: (CEB)

(1) "Mortimer" refers James Mortimer Milliman, a brother of Henry Milliman.

(2) "Marshall Hadsell" was the son of James Hadsell who was a minister and evangelist and one of the pioneer settlers of DeKalb Co., Ind. in the rural area commonly known as Coburn's Corner.

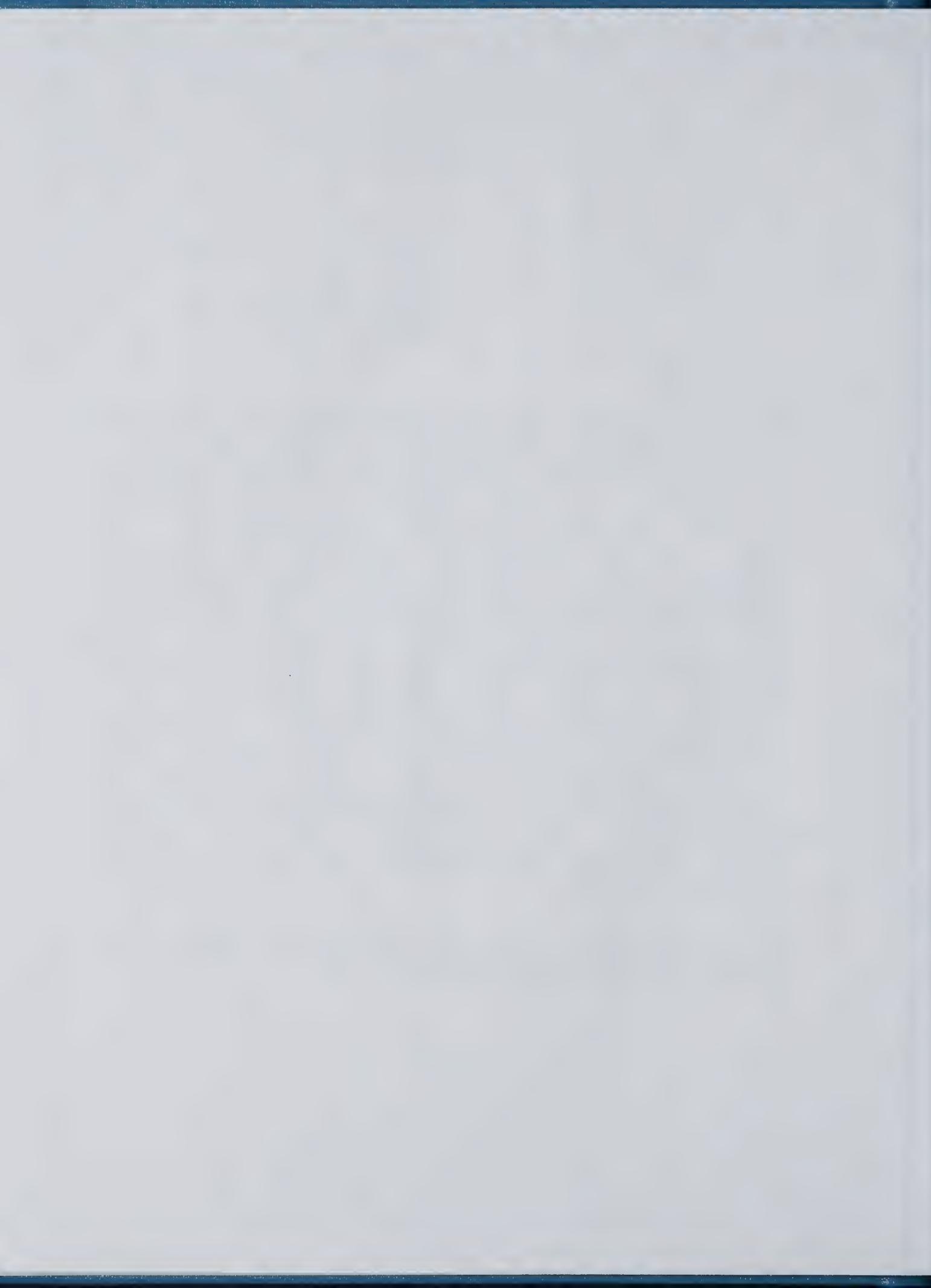


December the 25th, 1861

Dear Sister:

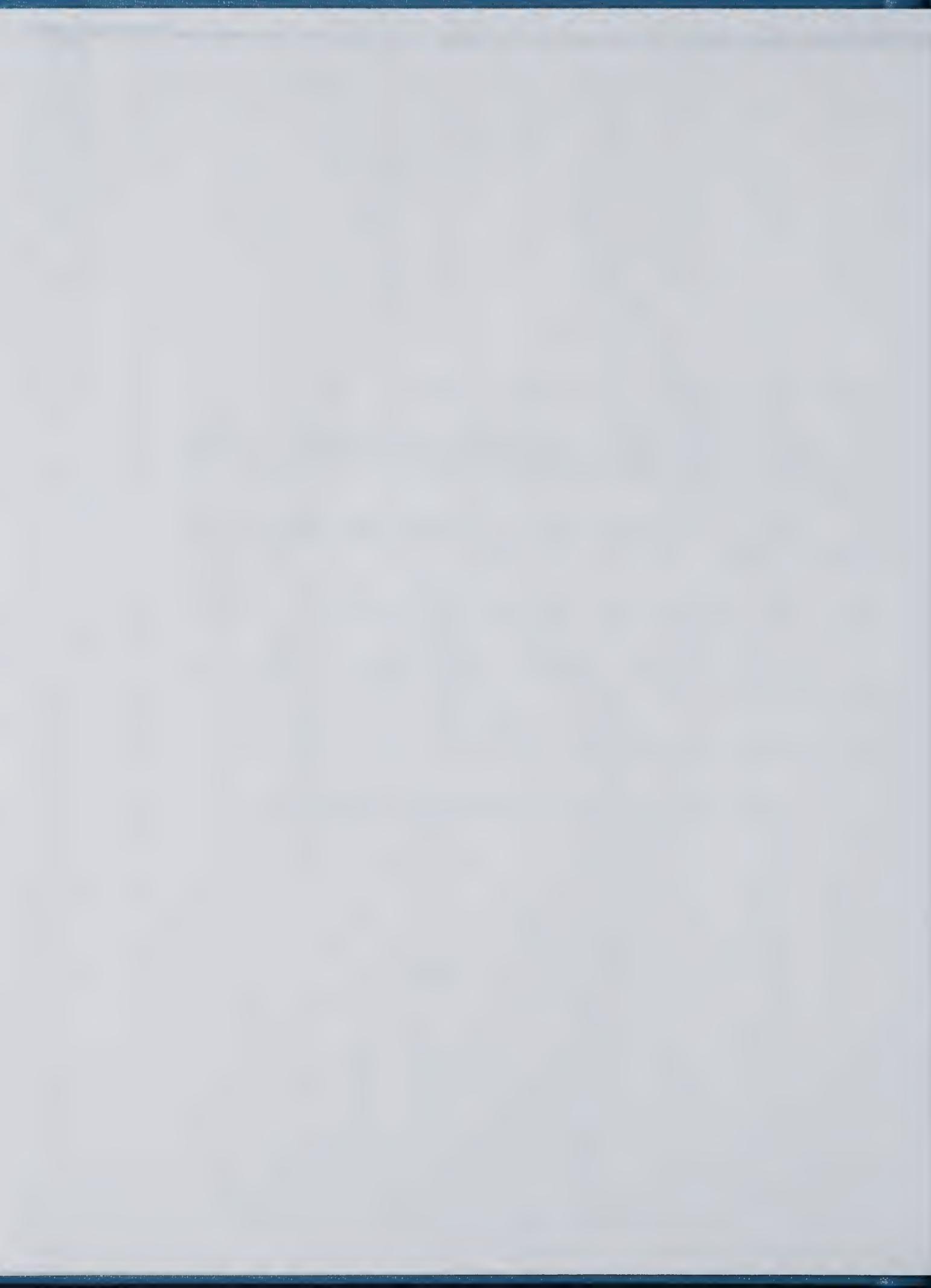
It is with an aking hart that i attempt to write you a few lines in answer to your leter which i received yesterday. i received your leter and was glad to here from you. Still i was very sory to here that you had bin so sick. you keep on geting beter. i want you to be very careful of yourself and not ketch cold, Harriet. i would like to come home and see you i can't at present. So i must be contented as i can here. We are all well here at present. My helth is the best it ever was. Henry and Warrin is on gard this brite Christmas morning. i am detailed as petrole. That is, they detail one man out of evry compny to walk up and down the road to watch what is a-going on. I don't have to cover till to night at six this evening. Harriet, you wrote as if you thought this was a hard place that is for playing cards and other mean habits. Now i tell you that you was rite. But you need not be afraid of my playing or any thing for i have sworn off doing that kind of business. i did play in Camp Allen but i hain't since i left thar. Harriet and Jane i want you to write often for it is a grate pleasure for me to rede your leters. i would like to be up thar this morning for i think i could have a good time. It seams like a dul Cristmas to us here. The weather is very warm and plesant here. It seams like sumer to me. Mort got two leters last night, one from George, the other from his wife. Tell father and William to rite to me often for i want to here from them bad.

(letter was unsigned or part is missing but it seems apparent that it was written by Henry Monroe to his sisters Harriet Milliman and Jane Milliman.)



NOTES: (pertaining to the preceding letter. CEB)

- (1) An effort was made to preserve the flavor of this document by leaving the spelling of words unchanged, thereby also revealing the common practice of the times in the use of phonetic spelling.
- (2) "Henry and Warrin" refers to the Milliman brothers who married Henry Monroe's sisters, Harriet and Jane respectively.
- (3) "Mort" refers to James Mortimer Milliman, another brother of Henry Milliman.
- (4) "George" is taken to refer to George Dow Abel who married Sally Ann Millman, a sister of Henry, Warren, and Mort Milliman.
- (5) "William" pertains to a brother of Henry Monroe.



Concord Dec. 29th 1861

My Dear Husband: it is with great pleasure that this morning finds me seated with pen in hand to answer your kind letter which I received yesterday. You cannot imagine how glad I was to hear from you and to hear that you are well, yet sorry to hear that you had not received any letters from home. I wrote one to you when I was not able to sit up in a chair. I had a chair put to my back in bed and had a board on my lap and wrote it that way. I directed it just as you told me to. It was wrote the same time that Maria wrote that one to Mortimer. Jane wrote one the same time. They were all directed alike. We sent them to Newville with Maria but I don't believe she even put them into the office or you would have got them when Mortimer got his. I wrote one to Henry and Jane wrote one to Warren and one to you for me since that. I must change the subject of writing and tell you how I am getting along. I am a-gaining slowly. My side troubles me very much. In the first place, I took cold that night I went to Wayne. I was unwell and it stopped on me. I did not tell you for I knew that it would make you feel bad. I tried to be as cheerful as I could. Charles went for Doctor Morris and he came and gave me some medicine that fetched them on me again. He said he thought I would get along but Jane scrubbed the floor in hot water and I took cold again. The typhoid fever set in and I was worse than ever. What I suffered no tongue can tell. Morris was here five times to see me and said he would come back again but he did not come. I lay here one week in just such pain. Father came down and I was so bad that he saw I must have something done. He went for Doctor Carroll and when he came he told me every pain I had. He told me I had got run down so low that it would take some time before I would get well. He said my left kidney and bladder was a perfect mass of inflammation. He came to see me four times and he said I would get well if I got no backset. He said that Morris left me in a very bad condition. I can set up two or three hours at a time now and I feel quite encouraged. Charles and Almira have been very kind to me. Mother came up one evening and staid a little while and then went over to Charley's and staid all night.

(rest of this letter is missing. CEB)

(the letter obviously was written by Harriet Milliman to her husband Henry Milliman. CEB)



NOTES: (pertaining to the foregoing letter. CEB)

- (1) "Maria" refers to the wife of James Mortimer (Mort) Milliman.
- (2) "Warren" Milliman was the husband of Harriet's sister Jane.
- (3) "Charles" undoubtedly was Charles Coburn, the husband of Almira Milliman who was a sister of Henry, Warren, and James Mortimer Milliman.
- (4) "Mother" is taken to mean Mary Ann (Warren) Milliman, Harriet's mother-in-law with whom Harriet resided for a time when first married. It is believed she was staying with her sister Jane at the time this letter was written.



Norwalk. Dec. 29, 1861

Dear Sister:

It is with pleasure that I take my pen in hand to answer your letter which we received last week. We are all well at present and hope these few lines will find you enjoying the same blessing. We were very glad to hear from you, but was sorry to hear of your being sick. We hope that ere this reaches you, you will be much better.

I don't hardly know whether I am glad or sorry to hear that the boys had enlisted or not. I am glad that they are willing to defend the old flag but I don't think it is my duty to leave my little ones until the very trying point. While there is as many young men and men that has got no children to leave behind I think that I have a good excuse to stay at home. I want you to write and let me know what regiment they are in and the letter of the company, Captain's name and the Colonel's name so I can write to them and know how they are getting along and what they are doing.

Military is all the rage here from the 2-year-old's to the old white-headed men. There is a regiment of cavalry at Camp Worchester, 5 miles from here. They are full 1200 men, 1200 horses and have received marching orders and will go this week. The 55th Ohio regiment is in Camp McClellan, 2 miles from here. They have got their number of men and their arms and equipment and expect to leave this week to join Gen. Buell's command in Kentucky.

I am still to work for the railroad Co. and am doing very well. We have plenty to eat, drink and wear and so we have no reason to complain.

Eugene has had a bad swelling on his neck but it is most well and he is as hearty as a buck. Albert is playing at the table and talking to me about his playthings. He had a drum for a Christmas present and he is very proud of it. He has got a little dog. He calls it Frank.



I should like to come out there this Winter but I won't make no promises so I shan't break any. I should think that you might come down here and stay this Winter. I wish you would if you could. We would like to see all of the folks, but as we cannot, would like to hear from you often.

Tell William that I should like to hear from him and know how he is getting along and how many babies he has got. Tell Albert to write and Jane. Give our respects to father's folks.

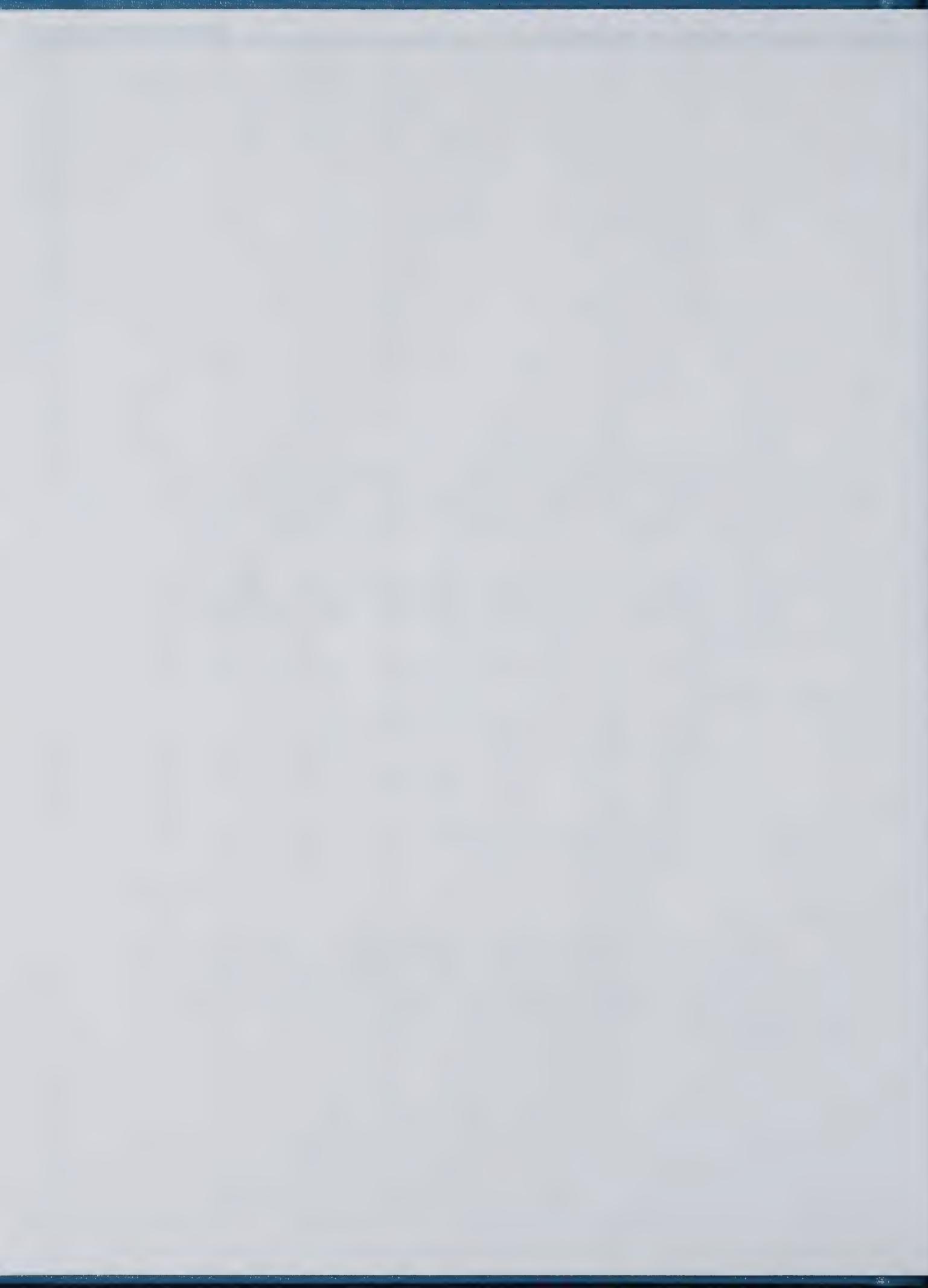
I must bid you goodbye for the present. Write as soon as you get this.

From O. N. and J. A. Monroe to Harriet Milliman.

Goodbye. Write.

NOTES: (CEB)

(1) "O. N." were the initials of Orin Monroe, a brother of Albert Monroe, William Monroe, Jane Monroe Milliman, and Harriet Monroe Milliman. When the rest of his father's family removed from Ohio to Indiana ca. 1856, Orin apparently remained in Ohio and never left that State during his lifetime.





Jan. the 10th, 1862

Dear Cousins:

It is with much pleasure that I take my pen in hand to write a few lines to you informing you that I am still alive and on this side of eternity, treading with a slow but steady tread toward the grave. Two weeks ago yesterday I left home and the third day I arrived at your father's and found them all well. I left your folks all well except sore eyes. Father and Mother both have sore eyes. I am a-going back in about ten days. I have got to chop about thirty cords of wood to make sugar with. I have taken six hundred trees two miles from where Habob Stratton lives. I am at your father's now writing on the old table in front of the stove. Uncle John sits reading the newspaper. Aunt Mary sits knitting, while Libby sits by the table writing a letter also. I am writing to whom I have never seen, but through the grace of God we may some day meet, but should we not, our thoughts can be conveyed by mail. The pen and ink is one of the greatest privileges we enjoy. They, in many instances, carry tidings of old times, but our old times was never together. So we shall have to write upon some other subject and, should we both live a few years or moments, we may meet as friends meet. I went and seen your wife. She is sick but I am hopeful she will get well before long. But I must change the subject. I have quit working father's place on shares. My sister Margaret's oldest boy takes my place. But I must draw to a close for it is getting late and I am getting tired of writing. My pen is a poor article. The ink is still worse. Give my love to all. Write soon. I remain your sincere and affectionate friend and cousin. Please excuse my boldness in writing and all my errors and bad writing, as it was written in haste.

Yours forever,

Parks Heath

Direct yours to Parks Heath
Wakeshma
Kalamazoo
Michigan

NOTES: (pertaining to the foregoing letter.CEB)

(1) John M. Milliman's sister Anna married Joseph Heath in New York State and Parks and Margaret Heath are apparently their children.

(2) The mother of John and Anna Milliman was Elizabeth Parks who married Abiram Milliman so Parks Heath would have received his given name in her memory.



South Carrollton, Kentucky
Jan. 17th 1862

Dear Wife:

I take my pen in hand to answer your letter, which I received just a few minutes ago.

I was very glad to hear from you once more and was very glad that you was gaining slowly. I wish you was gaining much faster, but I feel in hopes that you will get along after a while. I am in the enjoyment of reasonable good health. The rest are all well.

We left Calhoun Wednesday the 15th and got to this place the same night. We took up our quarters in old, vacated houses and will stay in them as long as we stay here, I expect. I don't think that will be long. I presume long before this reaches you we will be some where else, but no knowing where.

We are only some 22 miles up the river from Calhoun. The talk is that we will push forward as soon as the rest of the Brigade gets here. The cavalry just came in. The artillery is on the road and will be here tonight.

It looks as if we was a-going to begin to do something. We all feel anxious to go ahead and, if there is going to be any fighting, we want to have it done so all that live through can go home and enjoy the liberty for which we are fighting. I hope the final blow will be struck. I feel confident that our arms will come off more than conquerors, but time alone will tell.

This is the nicest country I have seen since we came into Kentucky. The village looks the best of any I have seen here. A good many of the houses are vacated by the Secesh running off. We have taken several prisoners since we came here. The news is generally favorable on our side as far as we hear.

The weather has been warm most of the time but some cold for a few days. Just enough snow to cover the ground and that is going off today. I don't know as I have any more news to write about affairs here.

You wanted to know if I sealed that letter that I sent by Maria. I am very certain that I did. If it was opened, she must have opened it. \$3.00 is what I sent.

Harriet, try and make Benjamin raise what money you need. for he never has paid but a little money on my work. I



think he might raise you what you wanted some way. Get Charles or some one to see him. Tell him you must have some money, for I know you must need it very much. I think we will draw some pay before long. Then I will send you some, but I can't tell how soon. I think by urging Benjamin he will raise a few dollars to last you till I can send some home. He is very slow unless urged.

I wrote a few lines to mother about them clothes and some other things. I asked her to answer it, but I don't know whether she will or not. I wrote my mind pretty plain. I told her if she would not consider you as her child, and use you as such, she could not me. For we was one and I would break every other tie for your sake, if necessary. I will, for you are dearer to me than all else on earth. You shall have a place in my heart for all of anyone else as long as I live. Oh, Harriet, how uneasy I have been ever since you was sick. I thought one spell that I should never see you again, but I feel in hopes now that you will regain your health and that the happy day will still come when we can enjoy each other's company. I hope and pray that we may.

I must close for this time. You will find the directions in Henry's letter.

Goodbye. This from your affectionate husband Henry Milliman to Harriet Milliman.

xx

NOTES: (CEB)

- (1) The term "Secesh" was a slang contraction of the word "Secessionist" commonly applied to Confederate soldiers and sympathizers.
- (2) "Maria" refers to the wife of James Mortimer Milliman, a brother of Henry Milliman.
- (3) "Benjamin" refers to Benjamin Alton Jr., a brother-in-law of James Mortimer Milliman.
- (4) "Charles" is taken to mean Charles Coburn who married Almira Milliman, a sister of Henry and James M. Milliman.
- (5) The "Henry" mentioned would no doubt have been Henry Monroe, a nephew of Harriet Monroe Milliman.



Jan. the 21st, 1862

Ever kind and affectionate Husband:

It is with sorrow that I now sit down to answer your kind letter which I received last Friday. I was glad to hear from you, and yet, I was sorry to hear that you had such a hard cold. I am afraid it will terminate in something worse than a cold, yet I hope not.

I am a-gaining as fast as can be expected. I am at Albert's now. I can work some now about the house. I am taking some Balsam now that Albert got me. It has done me more good than all the medicine I have taken.

Henry, I should like to know if you have clothes enough to keep you warm and victuals enough to keep you from starving.

When I was first taken sick, Charles took your watch down to wind it up. He dropped it on the floor and broke the cylinder, one of the hands, and the case off. It is at Ft. Wayne now. Albert took it down for me. It costs \$4.00 to get it fixed, but Albert said he would help me pay for it. I am very sorry about it but you must not scold me for it. I will wind it myself after this.

Henry, I have not got your coat yet, but I still hope that I may. I will get it if I possibly can.

Oh, Henry! I am afraid you worry too much about me. Don't worry any more for I am getting along very well and I will try to be as cheerful as I can, hoping we will see a better day than this.

Henry, I will send you a lock of my hair in this letter. I have some of yours and it cheers my heart to look at it many times, and, perhaps this may yours.

Oh, Henry! Be careful and not get any more cold. Enjoy yourself the best you can.

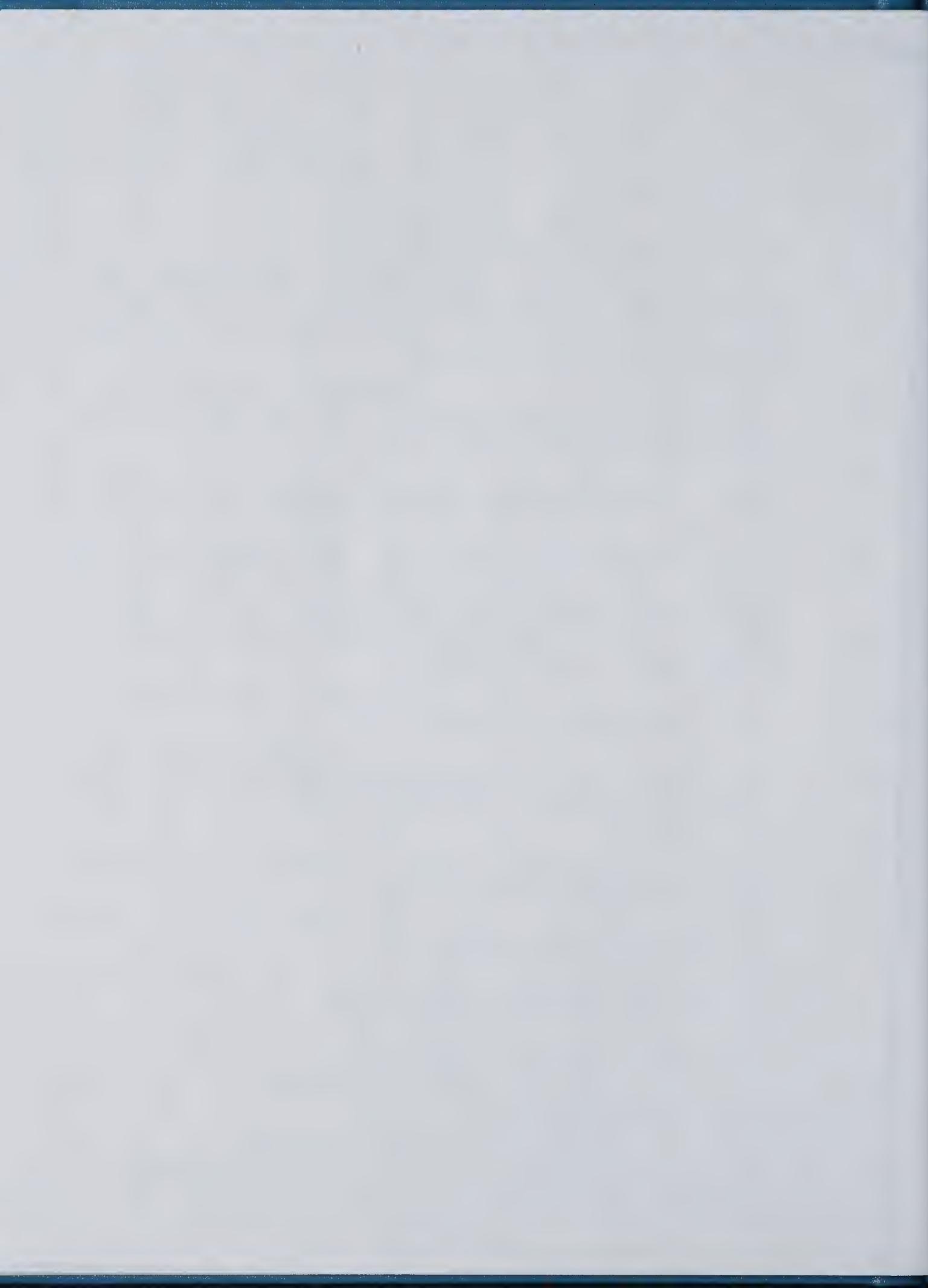
William has lost his black horse. He says you must take good care of yourself and write to him.

Maria went to a ball New Years and danced all night.

Tell Henry that I will write to him as soon as I get so my hand does not tremble so.

Albert says he would like to hear from you too.

I shall have to bid you goodbye for my hand trembles so I



can hardly write at all.. Write as soon as you get this and tell me all that has happened.. Don't keep anything from me. Let me share all life's sorrows with you.

Henry, be careful of your health and write often.

So, goodbye, from your affectionate wife and one that thinks of you often. Farewell!

from Harriet Milliman
to Henry Milliman

Your's till death.

NOTES (CEB)

(1) To explain some of the pathos evinced in this and other early letters between Harriet and husband Henry, it should be remembered that they were married only about two weeks after his enlistment in September of 1861 so they had only briefly shared their new relationship.

(2) The "Albert" mentioned is believed to be Harriet's brother, Albert Monroe.

(3) "Charles" is no doubt Henry Milliman's nephew, Charles Warren Abel, about eight years old when this letter was written.

(4) "Maria" would be Mariah Alton Milliman, the wife of Henry's brother James Mortimer Milliman.



Calhoun, Feb 2nd 1862

Dear Kind and Ever Affectionate Wife:

It is with pleasure that I seat myself to write a few lines to answer to the kind letter which I received this forenoon. You cannot imagine the joy that it gave me to hear from you once more. Oh how glad I was when I saw that nice lock of hair which you sent me. I could not help shedding tears over it. To think that it came from that head that has so many times nested on my bosom nearest my heart. This lock shall lie near my heart as long as I live. it is dearer to me than anything I have and I thank you for it ten thousand times over for sending it to me. It will give me a good deal of comfort when I get lonesome. I was very glad to hear that you was getting along so well. I do hope and pray that you will soon have better health than you have had for some time. I know that you have suffered it, more or less, for years. When you write, tell me just how you are. Don't keep anything from me, for you have always trusted me and I am sure you will yet.

I am in the hospital with the mumps, but they are getting pretty well along. So I think I shall be able to go into camp again in a few days. At least, I hope so, for it is a lonesome place. I am mostly over my cold and I hope I will not have another such a one very soon for it is very hard on me. I have not been able to perform duty for over a month. Henry is well. He came down and brought me your letter and one from Charles and one from Elizabeth and mother. He is well and I believe the rest that came from our neighborhood are all middling well except Henry Ables. He is here with the mumps, but is about over them.

When I wrote my last letter we were in South Carrollton. Now we are back in Calhoun again. I came down on the boat Thursday with the rest of the unwell soldiers, but the regiment didn't get here till yesterday. We all expected to go right ahead from there and be a-doing something. But we stayed around in old vacated houses a few days then went into Camp. We fortified some by slashing down timber around the camps and entrenching. Before they got through they were ordered back to Calhoun. The talk is now that we will go back down the Green River into the Ohio again and off in some other direction entirely. Nobody knows where, till we get to our destination. Maybe we won't leave here very soon again. We can't tell one day where we will be ordered to the next. I guess they don't calculate to let us do anything for they will not let us go even in sight or hearing of a Secession, so I guess there is no danger of our being hurt by the bullets. I still hope it will all turn out for the best and finally be settled without much



bloodshed. I trust in that God who has promised to overrule all things for the best. So I will try to be patient and wait His will.

Dear Harriet, don't worry about me for we will get along very well. We have plenty of blankets and good clothes to wear and enough to eat. So don't fret about me, for we will get along the best we can, hoping a better day will soon come when we can again enjoy each other's company and share life together while we live.

(from Henry Milliman to Harriet Milliman CEB)

NOTES: (CEB)

- (1) Reference to "Henry" applies to Henry Monroe, brother of Harriet Monroe Milliman.
- (2) "Charles" would have been Charles Coburn, brother-in-law of Henry Milliman.
- (3) "Elizabeth" was a sister of Henry Milliman.
- (4) "Henry Able's" (Abel) refers to the son of George Homer Abel who was one of the pioneer settlers of DeKalb County, Indiana in the area known as Coburn's Corner.



Feb. 23rd (prob. 1862 CEB)

Dear Uncles:

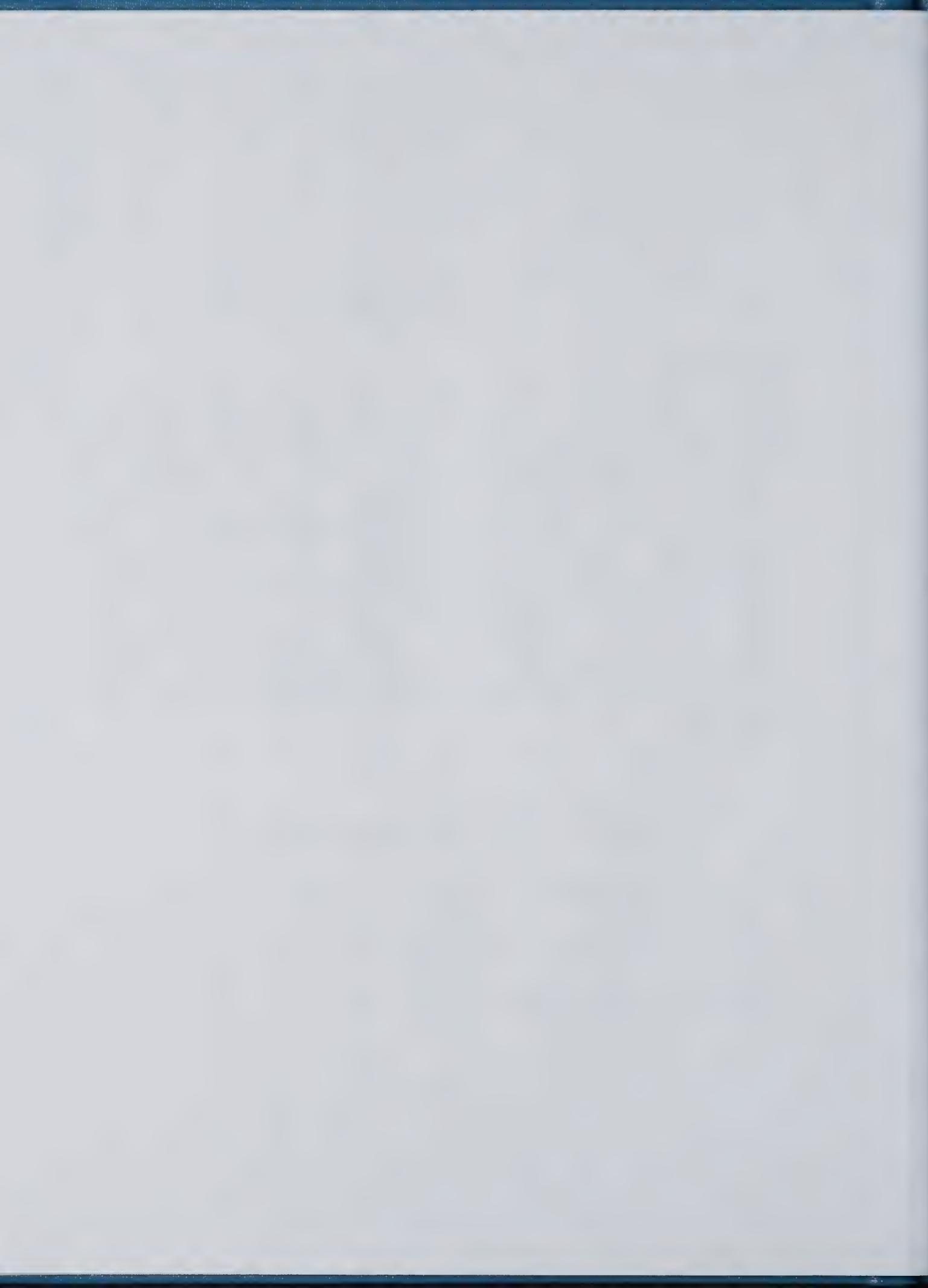
It is with pleasure that I take my pen in hand to write to you a few lines to let you know that we are all well excepting hard colds. The weather is middling warm and the snow is all a-going off, and our sleighing is just about gone up. I guess for the Winter. I have been a-going to school but it was out last Wednesday. I think that we had a very good school. I would like to see you all very much but as I can't I will try to be contented and wait till you return, which I hope will not be long. But I must tell you about the children -- that they were all over to our house yesterday and such a fine times as they had you never saw in all your life! I wish that you could have seen them. They would skip over the floor just like kittens on a hot cake. And then, after supper all of us girls went over to Aunt Jane's and I stayed there all night. And today I am writing to you and my paper is most full and I must close. But I want you to write as soon as you get this and so goodbye for this time.

From Harriet E. Coburn

To Uncle Warren, Henry and Mortimer

(followed by a drawing of vines and leaves)

(Harriet E. Coburn was the daughter of Charles M. Coburn and Almira Milliman; CEB)



Feb. 28th 1862

Ever Kind and Affectionate Wife:

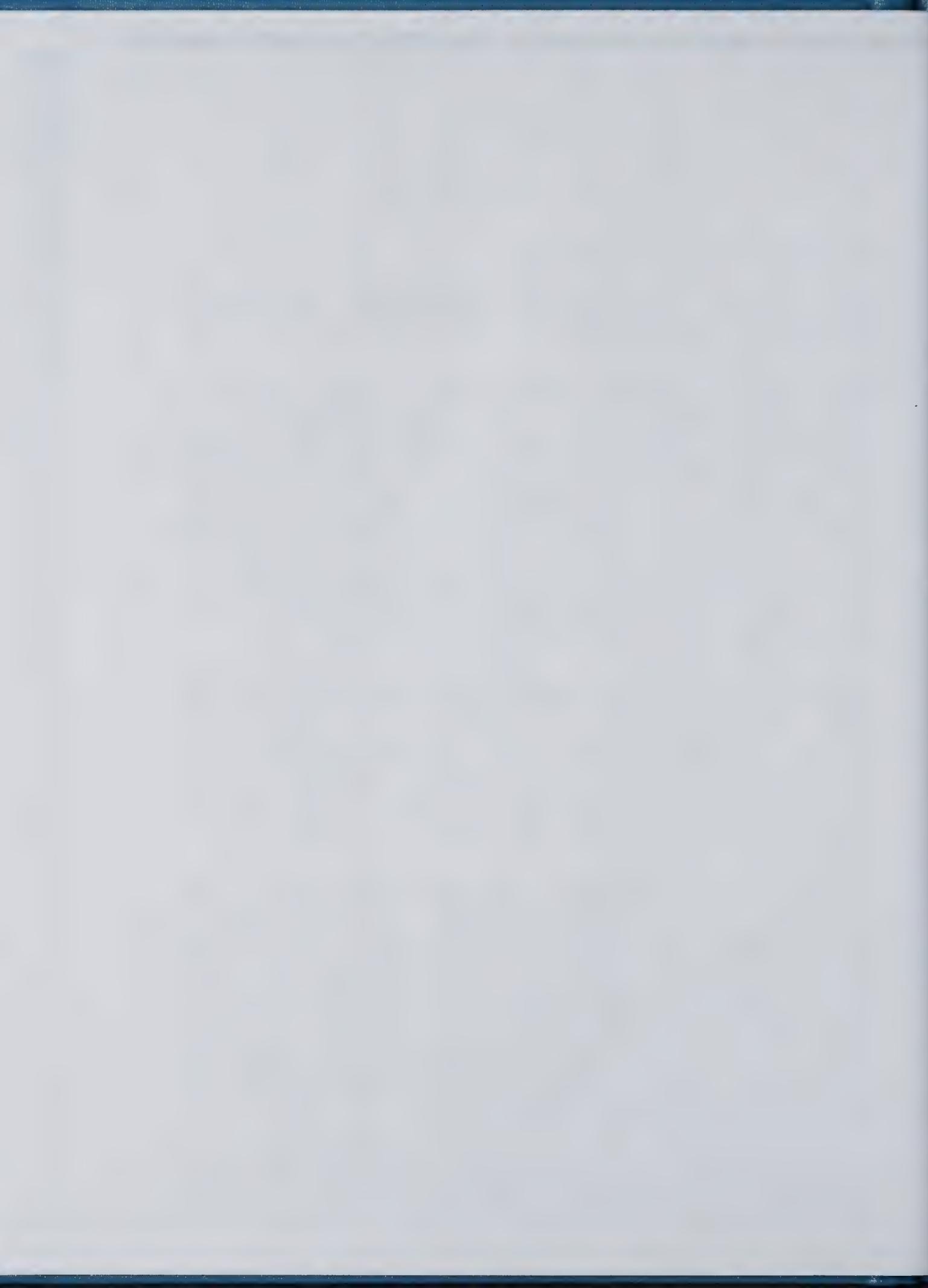
Once more I take my pen in hand to write a few lines to let you know how I am and what I am a-doing. I am well at present and I hope and pray that these few lines will find you the same.

Dear Harriet, I have not heard from you for about four weeks and have been afraid that you were taken worse again. I hope not. Probably your letters have been miscarried and sent on to the regiment. If so I will get them when I join them, which I hope will not be long, for I am tired of being behind. When they left we expected to follow in a few days, but they kept us in Calhoun till now. We finally got started this morning down the Green River on a steamer called the "Betty Gilmore" and I am setting up on the hurricane deck with my little diary book on my knee (in which I have accorded so many things that have transpired while I was there in the enjoyment of your sweet society and the society of dear friends and relatives). On this I place my paper and that is the way I am writing to you.

Warren, Marshall Hadsell, besides Henry Abels and Edwin Coburn are on the boat. Warren has the mumps but is getting about over them now. Edwin has been very sick and is not able to get around much yet. He will stop at Evansville and stay in the hospital there, when all the sick will be left. I have taken care of him for some time and I am afraid I will have to stay with him there. I don't intend to if they can possibly get anyone else. If they can't, he musn't be left to suffer, for it is a hard place to be sick if they have the best of care.

We have not heard anything in particular from the boys since they left. Only that they were in the fight at Fort Donaldson. We have not heard who fell, so we are anxious to get with them so as to find out. I should liked to have been there to help them if I had been able and shared with them the fortunes of the battle. If it had been my lot to fall I would have fell in a good cause. It may be that some of our nearest friends fell there. We cannot expect to gain as great a victory as that without the loss of many a brave man. I, for one, feel willing and anxious to go ahead and face every danger so as to bring this war to a speedy close so that those that do live through the war can return home to the society of friends and relatives.

I must close for today but will write more when I get to Evansville. We may all stay there a day or two and I calculate to put my letter in the office there. We will get there about nine or ten o'clock tonight. I don't know if



you can read this, for the boat jiggles so I can hardly write the way I am setting. I must bid you goodbye for tonight.

March 2nd, 1862

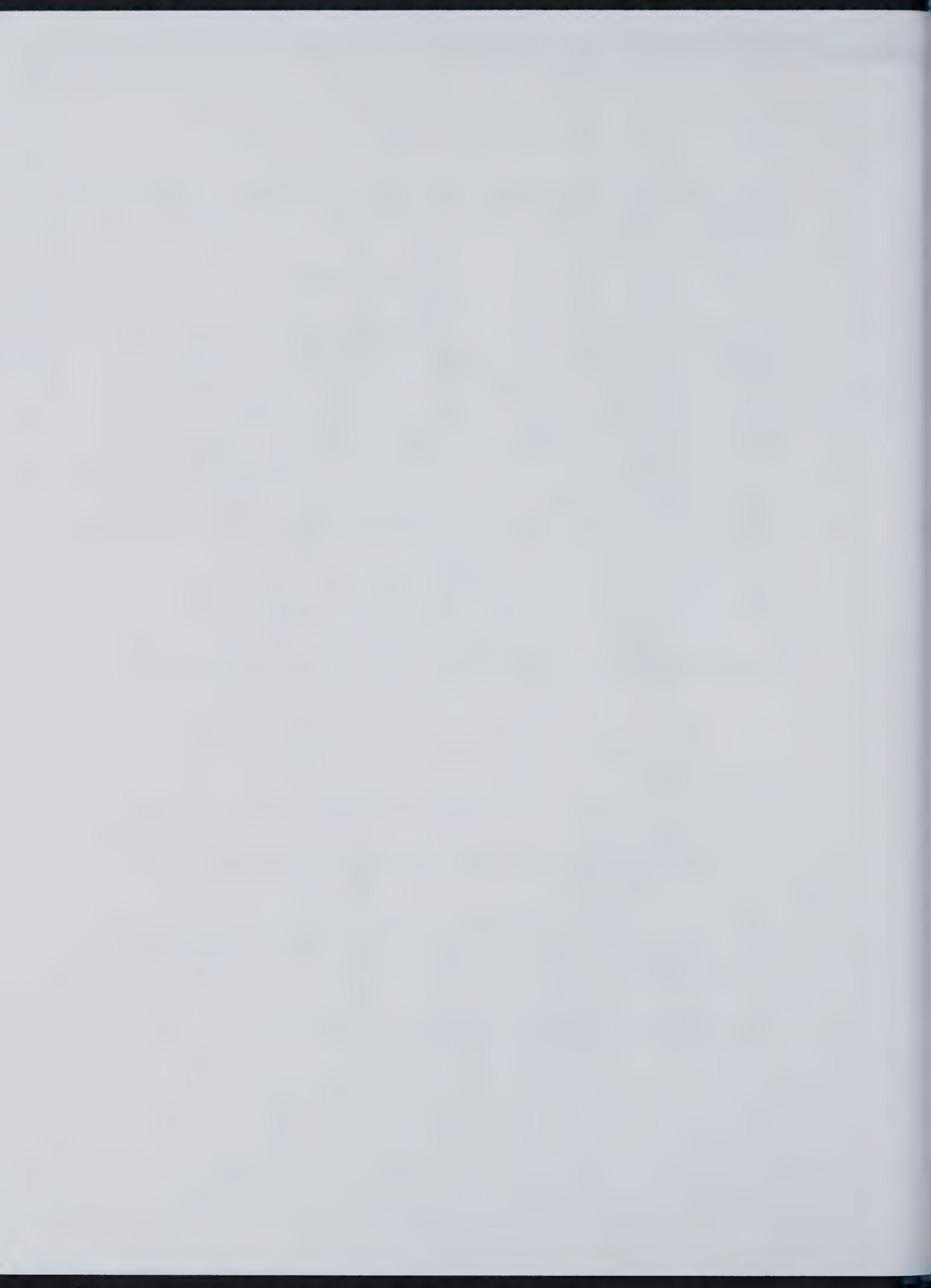
Dear Harriet: As I had not put my letter in the office, I thought I would write a few words more. We are in Evansville and we will probably stay here for several days. The regiment has been paid off (all that were down at Ft. Henry) and the paymaster is expected to be here in a few days so as to pay us off before we leave here. If so, I will be able to send you some money soon. I am sure you must need it very bad now, if Benjamin has not paid you yet. I don't know as I have any news to write, for you have probably got the news from other sources before you get this. I must close for this time but will write again before we leave here and send you some money if we draw our pay here. Write often. Goodbye.

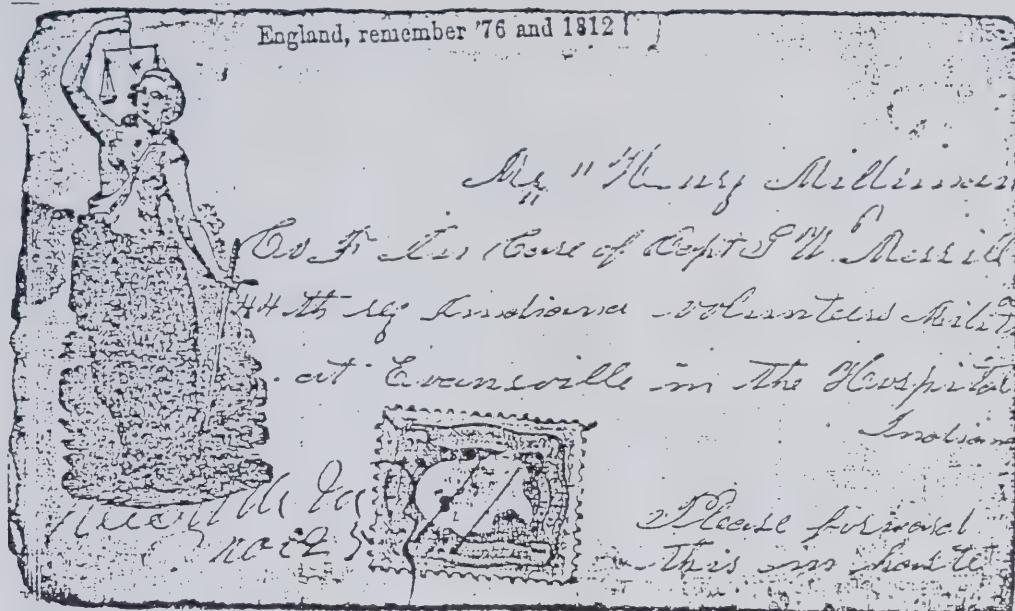
This from your ever affectionate husband.

Henry Milliman to Harriet Milliman

NOTES: (CEB)

- (1) "Warren" refers to Warren Milliman, brother of Henry Milliman.
- (2) "Marshall Hadsell" was the son of James Hadsell and Mary Abel and a cousin of George D. Abel who married Sally Ann Milliman.
- (3) "Henry Abel's" was a brother of George D. Abel.
- (4) "Edwin Coburn" was a son of John F. Coburn who was a pioneer settler of DeKalb Co., Indiana and an early minister of the Church of Christ at Coburn's Corner.
- (5) Reference to "Benjamin" applies to Benjamin Alton, Jr., a brother-in-law of James Mortimer Milliman.





March the 2nd 1862

Dearest Husband: It is with deep sorrow that I take my pen in hand to answer the few lines that you sent me. They brought the sad news that you was very sick and that Warren was dead. Hard, oh very hard, it is for me to know that you are still so sick. Yet I will put my trust in that God who has preserved our lives until now, to spare you to return to your home and friends. Be cheerful, Henry, and don't worry about me. Try to come home as soon as you get able. Dear Henry, I should like to come down and stay with you but Bry said he would do the best he could for you and so I guess I won't come. Oh, Henry, be careful as you can and not get worse. Come home as soon as you can. I must close for Bry is ready to start. So now, dear Henry, be cheerful and put your trust in Him who rules and reigns over us. Pray that He will soon restore you to health and happiness. So goodbye, dear Henry. Don't worry about me, dear Henry, and have Bry write to me as soon as he gets there. So goodbye.

From your ever fond and affectionate wife to my ever loved and remembered Husband until death. Farewell, do be careful.

(from Harriet Milliman to Henry Milliman CEB)

NOTE: (CEB)

"Bry" refers to John Bryant Milliman, a brother of Henry Milliman.



Camp near Kingston, North Carolina
March the 11th (prob. 1862 CEB)

Dear Brother and Sister:

i now sit down with pleasure to tell you that we had a little fight and we cleaned the rebs out. We can do it and they had better get while they can have a chance. There has been fighting here for a number of days but there was the hardest fighting yesterday, for they charged our works. I tell you they went back in a hurry and they didn't come back neither. If they do come back they will get a warm reception. The boys say let them come, but Tip it looks rather hard after the battle is over. The dead and wounded laying over the ground. It don't look as bad for the rebs, for they brought the cursed rebellion on. Now let them suffer for it. There was no one hurt in Co. F. Co. A had six wounded and Co. I had one killed and Co. D 2 wounded. That is all that I know of. We had rather tuff times here but as long as I keep well I can't complain.

Tell father that I sent 200 dollars to Mr. Moody. I expect he has got it now. The boys from this way sent it all to him and father can go to him and get it.

There is no fighting here today and it is warm and pleasant. The boys are all well and in good spirits.

I believe that I have rote all the news that I can think of.

Direct to Co. F, 128th Ind, 2nd Army Corps, First Division and 2nd Brigade.

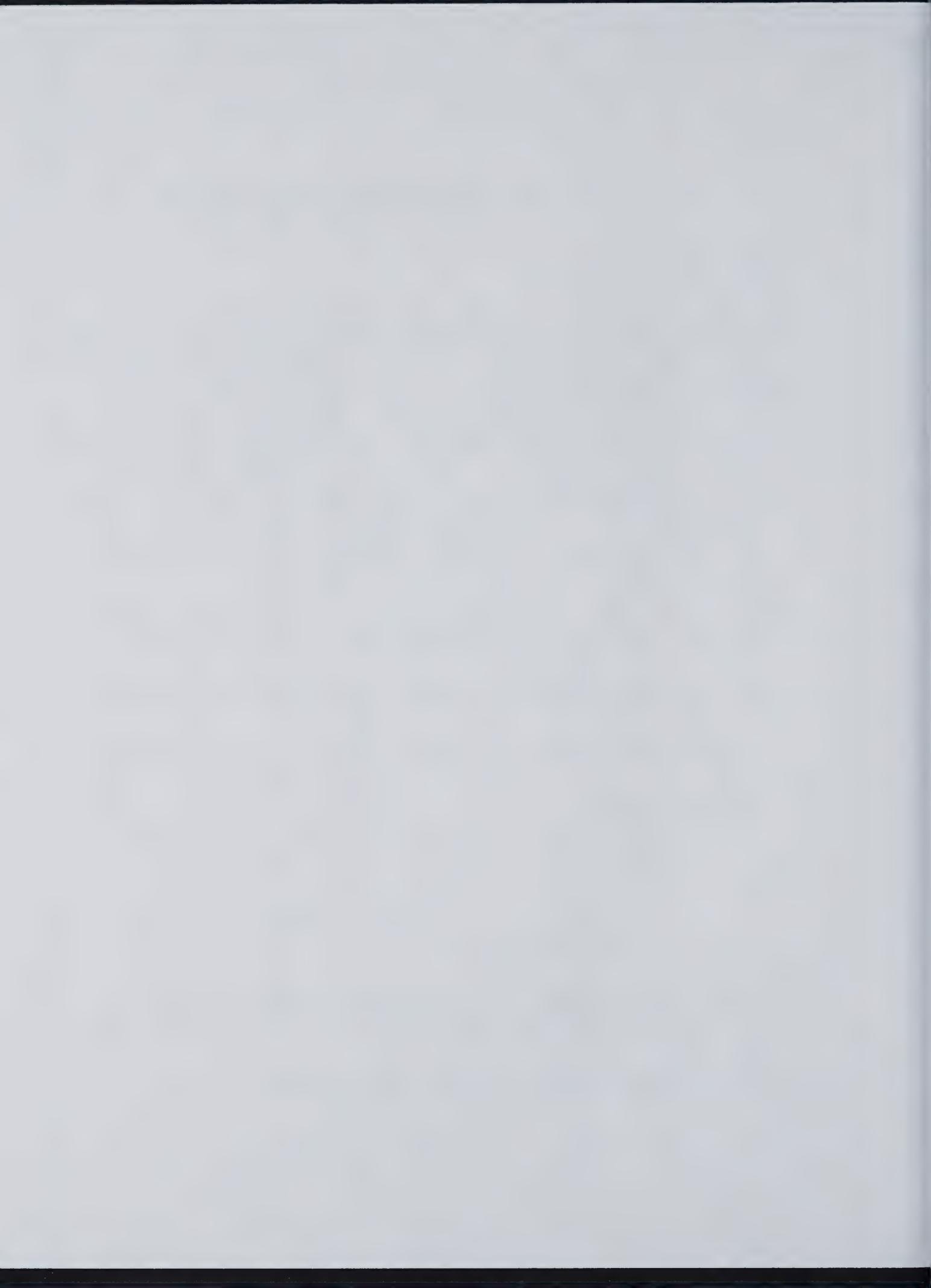
Please excuse all bad spelling and writing and so goodbye.

Joel A. Milliman

(apparently addressed to Henry and Harriet Milliman CEB)

NOTE: (CEB

Joel Abiram Milliman was a brother of Henry Milliman.



Camp Carrington, Indianapolis
March 30, 1865

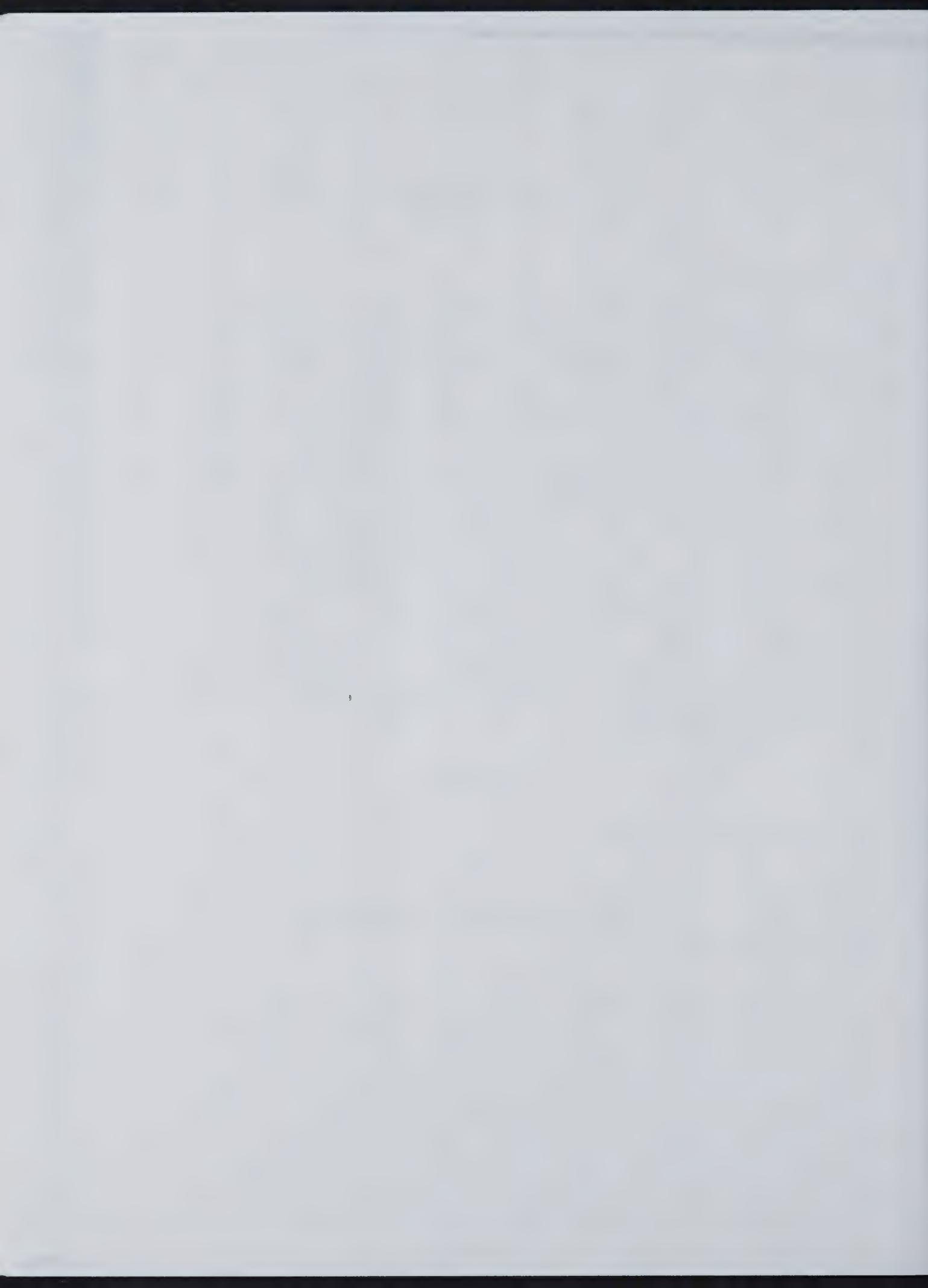
Respected Sisters:

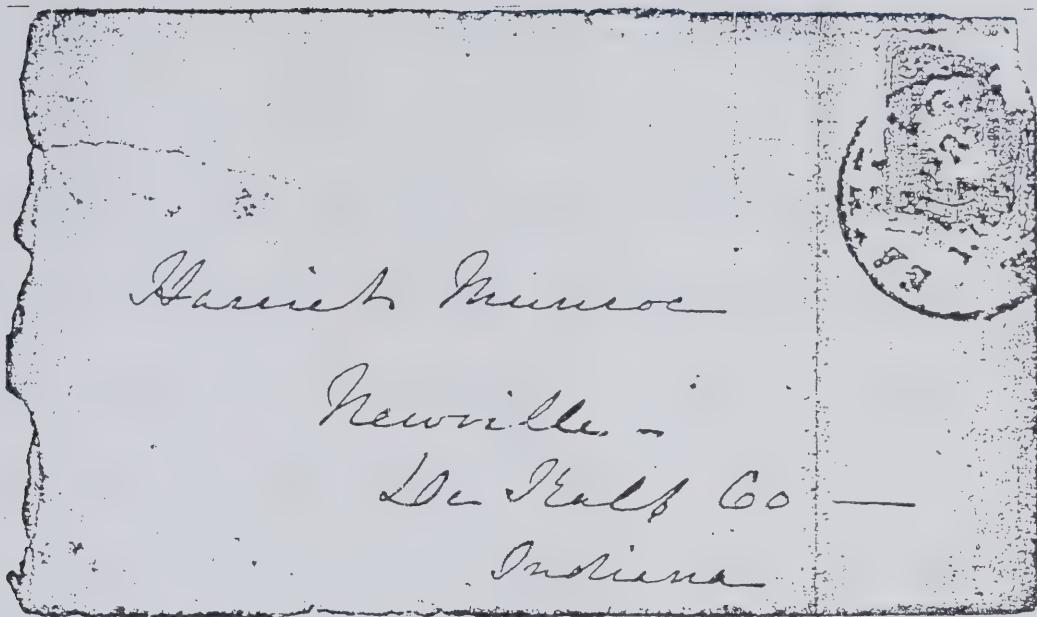
This afternoon finds me seated to address you although far apart, we have the pleasure of hearing from one another in this way. Well, Sisters, we are in camp here. There are about four or five thousand soldiers here in camp at the present time. I suppose this is a pretty place when it is dry, but it has been raining ever since we have been here and it is very muddy and disagreeable getting around, but we shall trust for better in the future. I can't say how long we will stay in this camp. We may leave pretty soon - in a couple of weeks and we may have to stay here for some length of time. If we do we all expect to get home on furlough for a while. The boys all seem very lively and enjoying themselves very well. They are all stirring around yet but I can't say how long it may last. There are some sick in the hospital now but I hope we will all be favored with good health while from home. When you write I want to know what you are going to do this Spring. Whether you are going to stay where you are, or whether you are going to move somewhere else. Well, I guess I will close by saying that I am well and all good wishes to you. Give my love to all that inquire. Write soon. Direct to W. A. Monroe, Camp Carrington, Indianapolis, Indiana. Forget me not. Yours with love and respect.

W. A. Monroe

forget not a friend.

(This letter was no doubt addressed to Harriet Milliman and Jane Milliman. CEB)



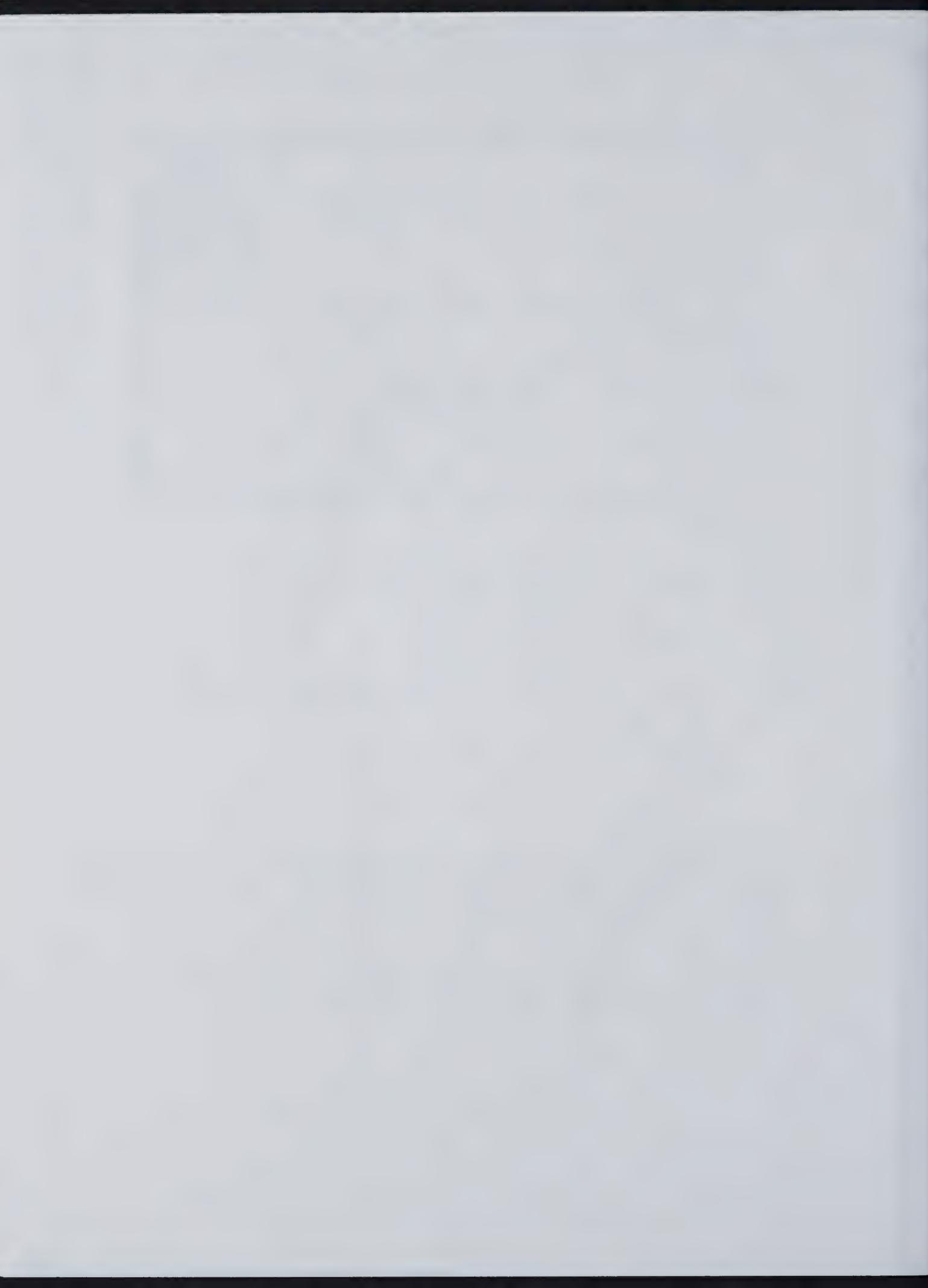


St. Louis, April 13th

Harriet Monroe:

Your brother in the 4th St. Hospital desired me to write you. He is very ill indeed, with lung fever and I fear will not be better, though we hope for the best. He was so low that I could not talk much to him, but will see him again.

You had better write as soon as you get this -- either to him or me. I will see that he gets it. His direction is "Ward 4, 4th St. Hospital, St. Louis" and mine is "Mrs. Henry Beight, care Clark & Co., St. Louis."



Sunday, Apr. the 18th 1862

Ever Kind and Most Affectionate Companion:

It is with great joy that I now seat myself to answer your kind letters which I received on Friday last.

You may be assured that I was glad to hear from you once more, and also to hear that you was a-gaining slowly.

Oh, Henry, never was there such a week passed over my head as the week that is past and gone. A week of pain and sorrow to me a-thinking of you as you lay on your sick bed, so far away from home and the ones you love so dearly. Oh, Henry, I have shed many a briny tear for you and many, very many, are the prayers that I have sent up to that kind Father who has so gently brought us through all the changing scenes of life, to soon restore you to health, which is one of the greatest blessings we here enjoy. One that you have so long been deprived of.

Oh, Henry, it was hard for me to know that you was gone when you was well, but now you are sick and it is still harder for me. I feel some as the poet says:

"What peaceful hours I once enjoyed
How sweet their memory still
But they have left an aching void
This world can never fill."

Yes, dear Henry, there was once a time when the cares and sorrows of the world could never cross our pathway but, alas, those days have faded away like the leaves of Autumn. I am left to wander, as it were, alone through all the stormy paths of sorrow and pain in a world beset with misery and woe. Yet there is one thing to comfort us, although dark clouds may pass oer our heads and shed their gloomy darkness around us. That is, if we only put our trust in Him who has said he would finally overrule all things for good, we can look beyond all storms and afflictions of life to a day when all these cares shall be done away and these bodies shall lie down to rest in the cold and silent tomb.

But, Henry, don't get discouraged. Try and be as cheerful as you can. Hope and pray that you may soon be restored to health and happiness and be permitted to return to your home and enjoy the society of friends and relatives as you have in days that are past and gone. Don't worry about home too much. Wait until you get able so that you won't get any backset for, if you should, I am afraid that you will never get up again.



You wanted to know how much money I got from you and Warren. I got \$60 in all. 30 for me and 30 for Jane. I got it without any trouble and I have sent mine all back to you. I will send you \$3 more in this letter. If you need any more write and let me know and I will send you some. I have got \$10 of Mr. Alton, but I need a little of it very much. If you want any more be sure and write. I can get some more of him. There was only \$2.30 with Warren. There was a note in his pocketbook that said there was six sent home. That is all that I've got. Where the rest is is more than I can tell. Perhaps you will know something.

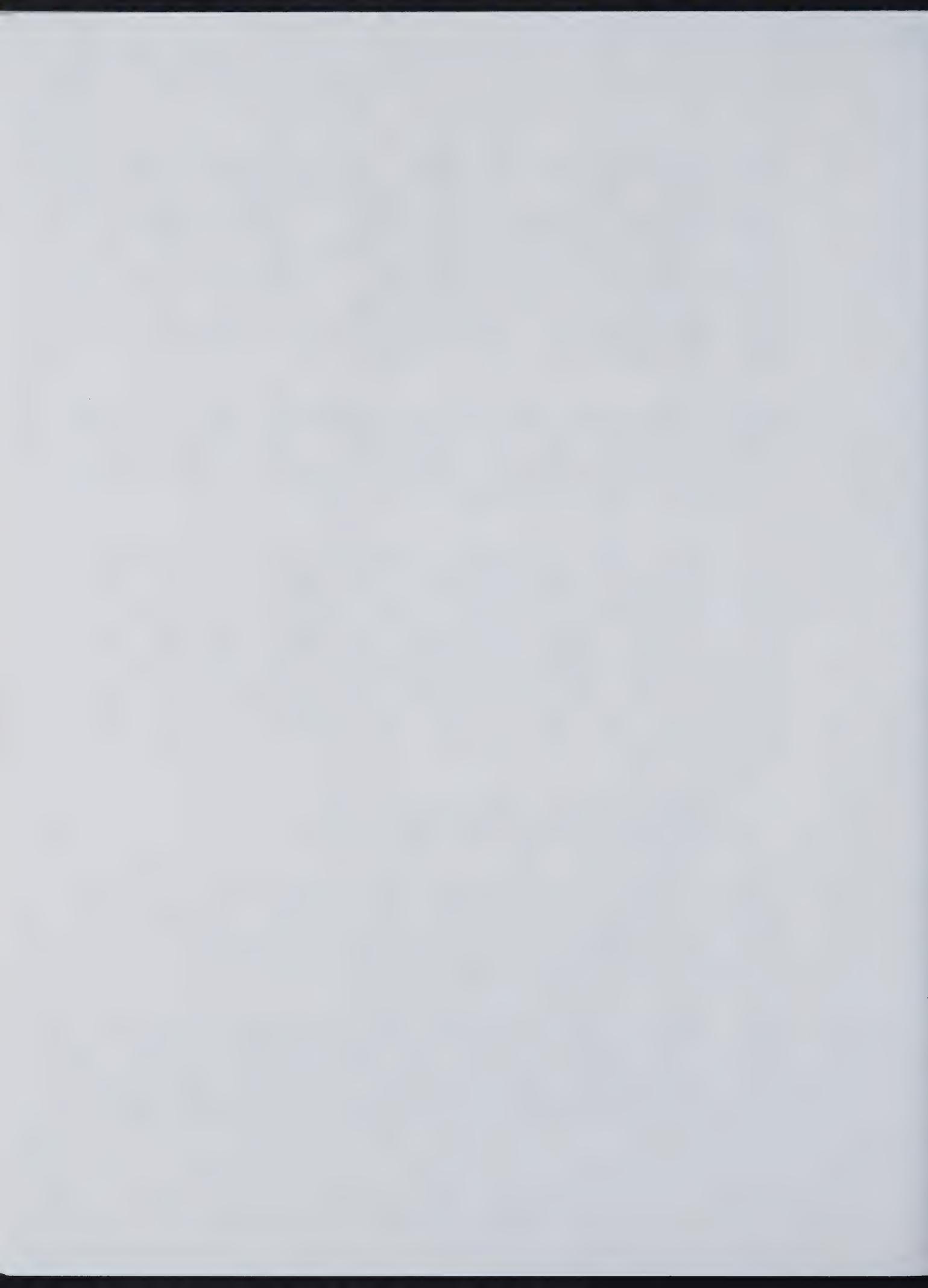
(NOTE CEB. There is no ending for the foregoing letter but there is another part of a letter which may have been a continuation of this one although in this case one page would be missing entirely. With this assumption, the second incomplete letter is being appended hereto.)

.....that he took in his hand to gaze upon for the last time on earth. How must he have felt when he knew that he was taking the last look at his dear wife and she could not speak to him! No wonder his voice failed him when he gazed for the last time upon one so dear as she must have been to him. I can judge by my own feelings when I gaze upon your picture with streaming eyes and think how far away from me you are. No one can tell how hard it is to be separated from those they love so well until they have the trial once themselves. Oh, how little did I realize how hard it was until the trying hours come that we must part, and then, as the poet says;

"Tender were the scenes of parting
Mothers wrung their hands and cried
Maidens wept their swains in secret
Fathers strove their hearts to hide."

All that I then had to cheer me was the hope that I should one day be permitted to meet you in Heaven, if not here on earth. But I must close for tonight, for it is getting late and Harriet came over to stay with me tonight and she is a-getting very sleepy. I will write a few more lines to you in the morning, so goodbye for tonight.

Dear Henry: This pleasant morning finds me seated again to write a few more lines to you and finish my letter. This is indeed a beautiful morning. It seems almost like Spring. I feel very lonesome. Jane and Marion have gone to meeting today and Johnny and me are here alone. I would liked to have gone along too, but I am not able to walk so far today.



I walked up to Newville last Monday and got you some postage stamps and sent them to you and when I got home I was tired enough and I rested but very little all that night. My side pained me so, but I am willing to suffer for your sake. I thought it might be the last time that I should have the privilege of doing anything for you and my strength seemed to increase under such thoughts as these.

As my sheet is almost full, I shall have to bring my letter to a close by saying write often, for it makes me feel a great deal happier to hear from you often.

Now, dear Henry, take good care of yourself as you can and not get sick again, if you can help it. So goodbye from your ever affectionate wife and one that loves you till death.

To my ever remembered husband, farewell until death.

Harriet E. Milliman

22W

NOTES: (CEB⁴)

(1) "Mr. Alton" apparently refers to Benjamin Alton, brother-in-law of James Mortimer Milliman, who appears to have been indebted to Henry Milliman.

(2) Reference to "Jane" applies to Harriet's sister, the widow of Warren Milliman.

(3) "Harriet" was undoubtedly Henry Milliman's niece, the daughter of Charles Coburn and Almira Milliman.

(4) "Marion" and "Johnny" refers to the sons of Jane and Warren Milliman. (It is believed that Harriet Milliman resided with her sister Jane for some time while Henry served in the Military.)



St. Louis, Mo. April 18, 1862
Fourth Street Hospital

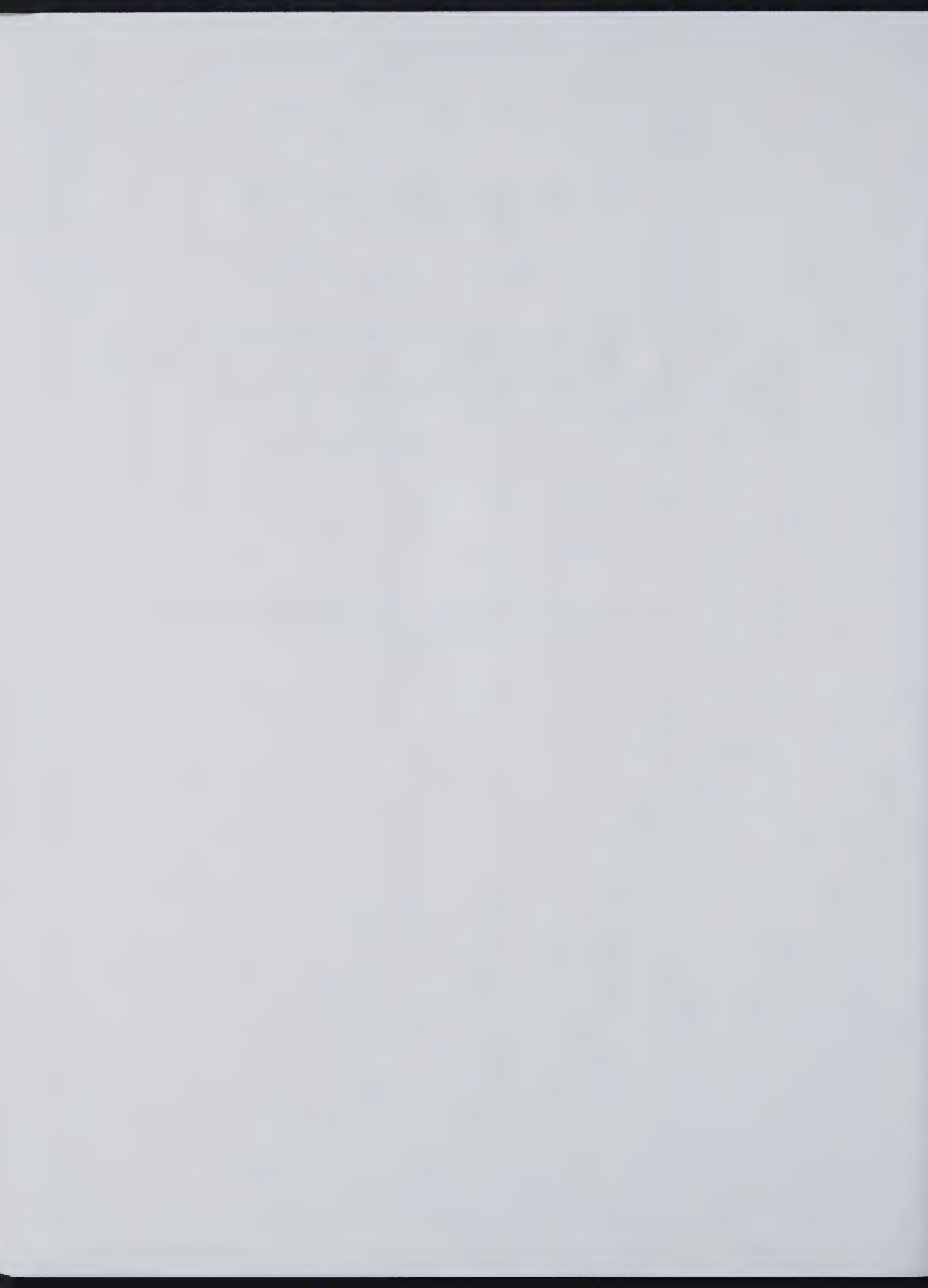
Miss H. E. Milliman:

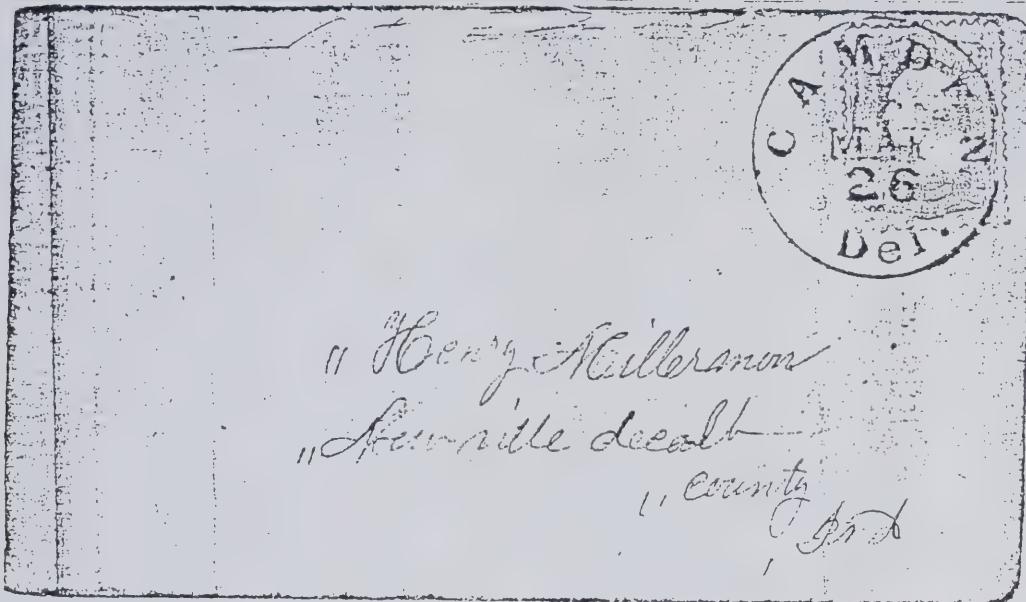
A friend of yours, Mr. Henry L. Monroe, desires me to write you a line to let you know that he is getting better and that he feels greatly encouraged. He tells me he has had typhoid fever. Has been sick about six weeks. He is evidently getting better, though he has been very sick.

Yours Respectfully,

J. E. Allen

Direct your letters to - Fourth Street Military Hospital
St. Louis,
Missouri





Camp Harrington, Dover, Delaware
May the 26th A.D. / '65

Mr. & Mrs. Millerman:

Respected brother and sister. The present time is occupied by me in writing to my friends at home in answer to the kind and welcomed letter that I received from you this morning. I was truly happy to hear that you was all well and enjoying the time as well as could be expected under the present circumstances. Every person knows that being in the army there are some hardships to endure. Well, my friends, I been in this camp and no answer from home yet. I can't see why it is that I can't hear from home. I would be very glad to hear from my family and that they was all well, then I would be satisfied. But, as I can't hear, it makes me uneasy. When you get this letter I would like to have you go and see if they are all well and write to me as soon as you can.

I was very sorry to hear that James Brownley was dead, but as he is now, we soon all must be, for we have no limits on our lives.

I suppose little Henry thought he was pretty near a man when he got his new shoes.



Well, my friend, there was one of our company buried the other day. His death was caused by a small cut in his finger. He was cutting a fish pole and cut his finger. He caught cold in it and lost his life. I was sorry for him. He had been in the service three years and come through safe and now died from a small wound of a knife. His name was Samuel Grider. There are some of the boys got the mumps at the present time, but they are all getting along very well. I think they will be alright in a few days. With that exception the boys are all well and enjoying themselves. Some of them enjoy themselves best kind and some not so well. They would sooner be at home. I was glad to hear that you have got a home of your own and I hope you will enjoy it. Well, as for us getting home, I hardly know what to write. I think the prospects are good enough to get home soon -- till the Fourth of July at the fartherest. I suppose you have more news as regards us getting home than we have. I wish you would send me news. Please send me some good paper if you can, for there ain't any news in the papers we get here. Direct as before.

Yours, with love and respect.

as ever,

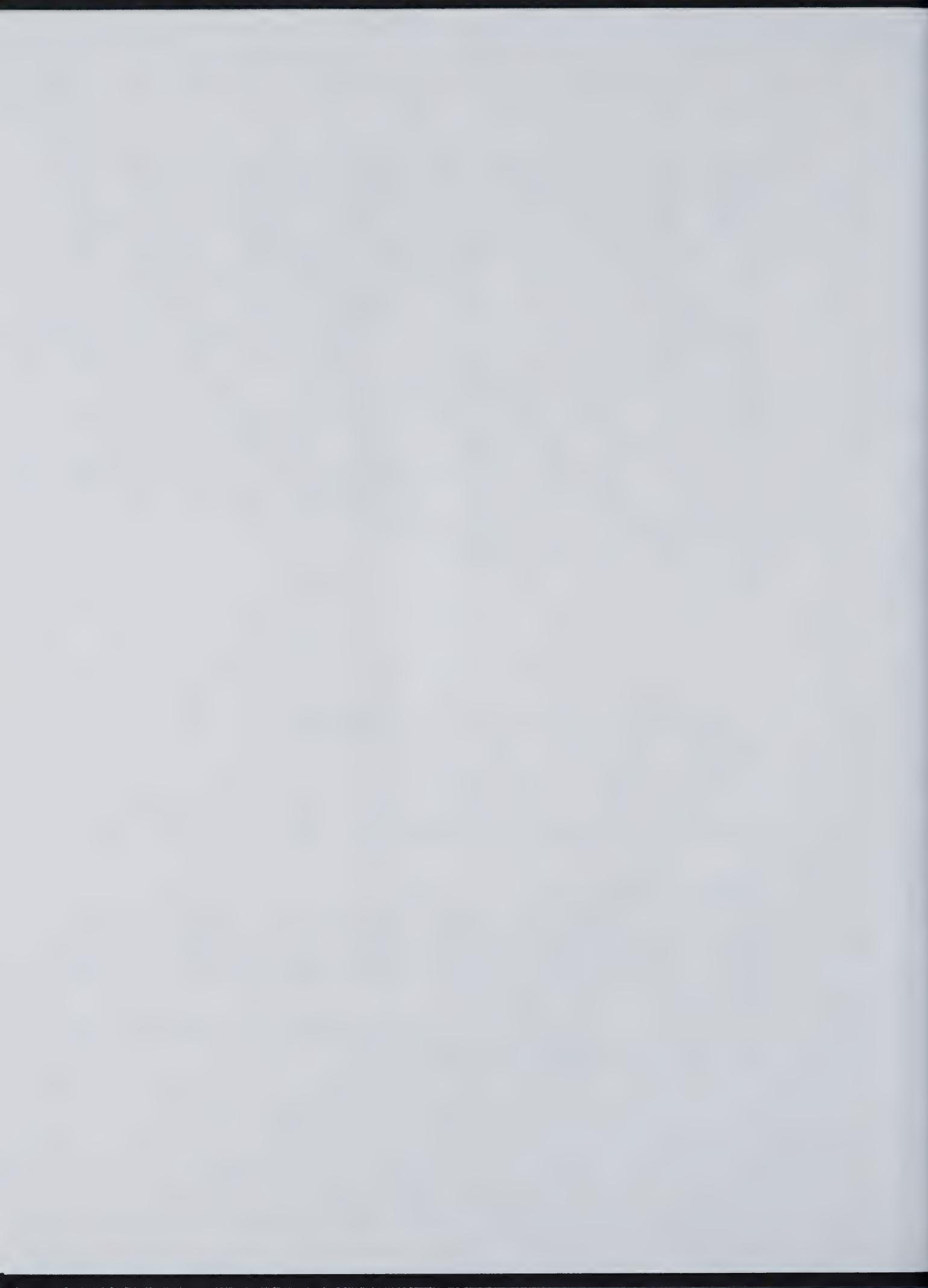
Wm. A. Monroe

I will say that I have written to Orin and hain't had any reply yet, but I will write to him again.

NOTES : (CEB)

(1) "Henry" apparently refers to the son of Warren Milliman and Jane Monroe, Warren having died earlier during the Civil War. Warren and Jane's children are believed to have resided during their early years with Henry and Harriet Milliman.

(2) "Orin" was a brother of Wm. A. Monroe and sisters Jane and Harriet (Monroe) Milliman.



Mr. Henry Hillman
Newville
DeKalb Co
Indiana

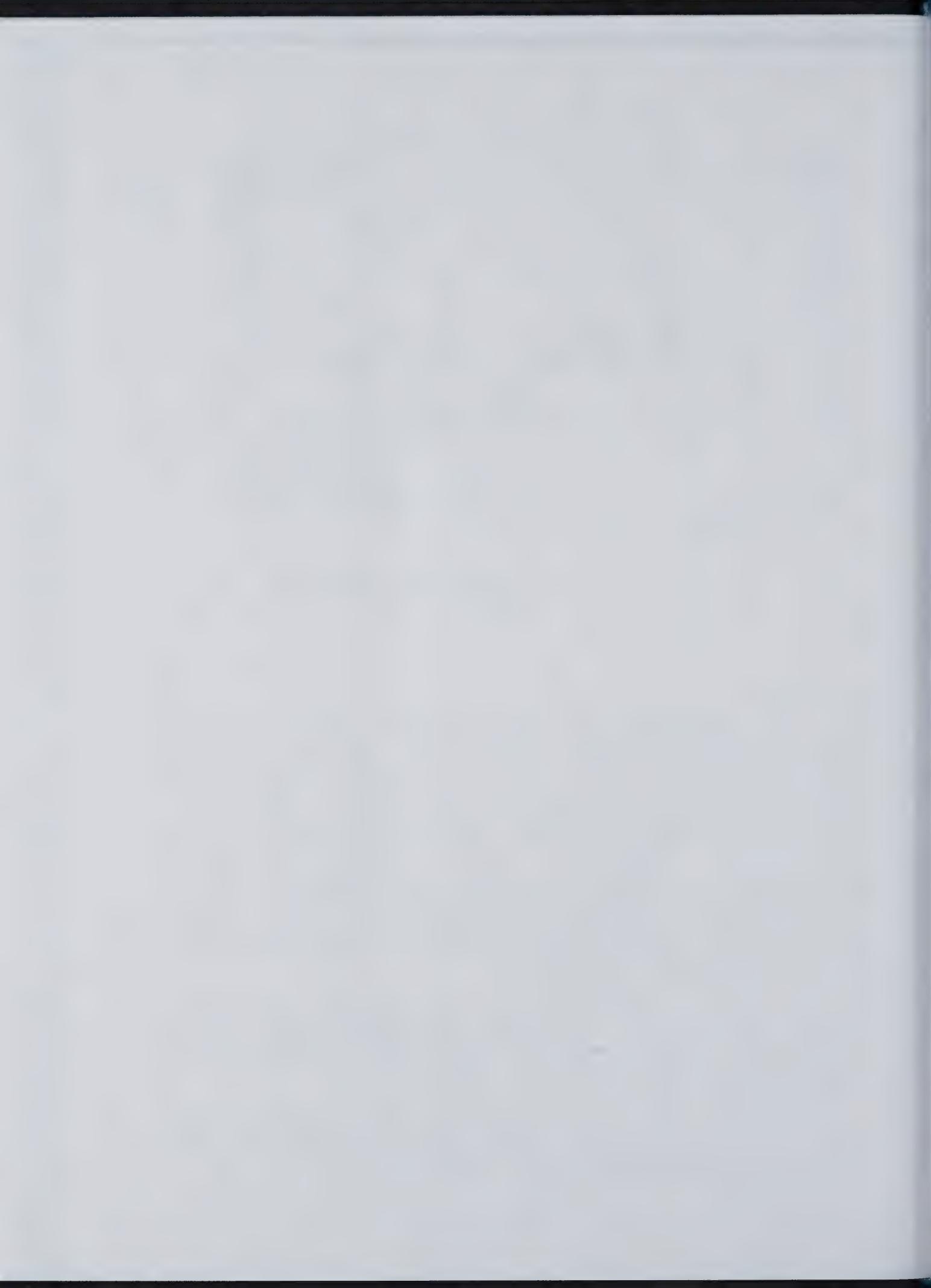
In Camp near Washington
June 2nd 1865

Dear Brother:

As we are now lying in camp with but little to busy ourselves about, I thought it a very good way to pass off an occasional hour by inditing a few lines now and then to different ones in the circle of friends at home. I have already written three letters in a little over a week past, which is as many as has found their way to me during seven months, which includes the whole term of my service in the army. But I suppose there has been a good many written to me which failed to reach their proper destination on account of my being on the move from one place to another so much of the time. In all probability, we shall soon make another trip, which will bring us to our respective States again, for the purpose of being mustered out of the service and sent to our homes.

We are camped on a high knoll in the woods some 4 miles from the National Capitol. "If nothing happens and nobody comes" I will go to town tomorrow and see if there is anything there, more than in the other large towns which I have passed through.

We are having some very warm weather here just at present and, as it is now so late in the season, we need not look for any very disagreeable spell of weather hereafter.



But here comes one of our grapevine operators with the latest dispatch from Head Quarters. Kirby Smith not surrendered. Sherman's Army to be sent to Texas to give the finishing strikes to the rebellion. Some of the boys really believe it is so and are just ready to Querlacue and roll in it in consequence thereof. But to my noggin, the thing looks very clear, that our journey to westward will end when we get to Indianapolis.

There is one thing more which makes some the men grunt rite smart. Those who had not over four months to serve have been mustered out. Consequently their pay is stopped and now they cannot get transportation home, as the roads are all being used for purposes of moving troops yet in the service. Rather a bore on schnerder but I guess they will have to stood it. As the old saying goes "what can't be cured must be endured." But my sheet is full and so I close by wishing that it may find you, as it leaves me, in the enjoyment of very good health -- which is among the richest of Heaven's blessings.

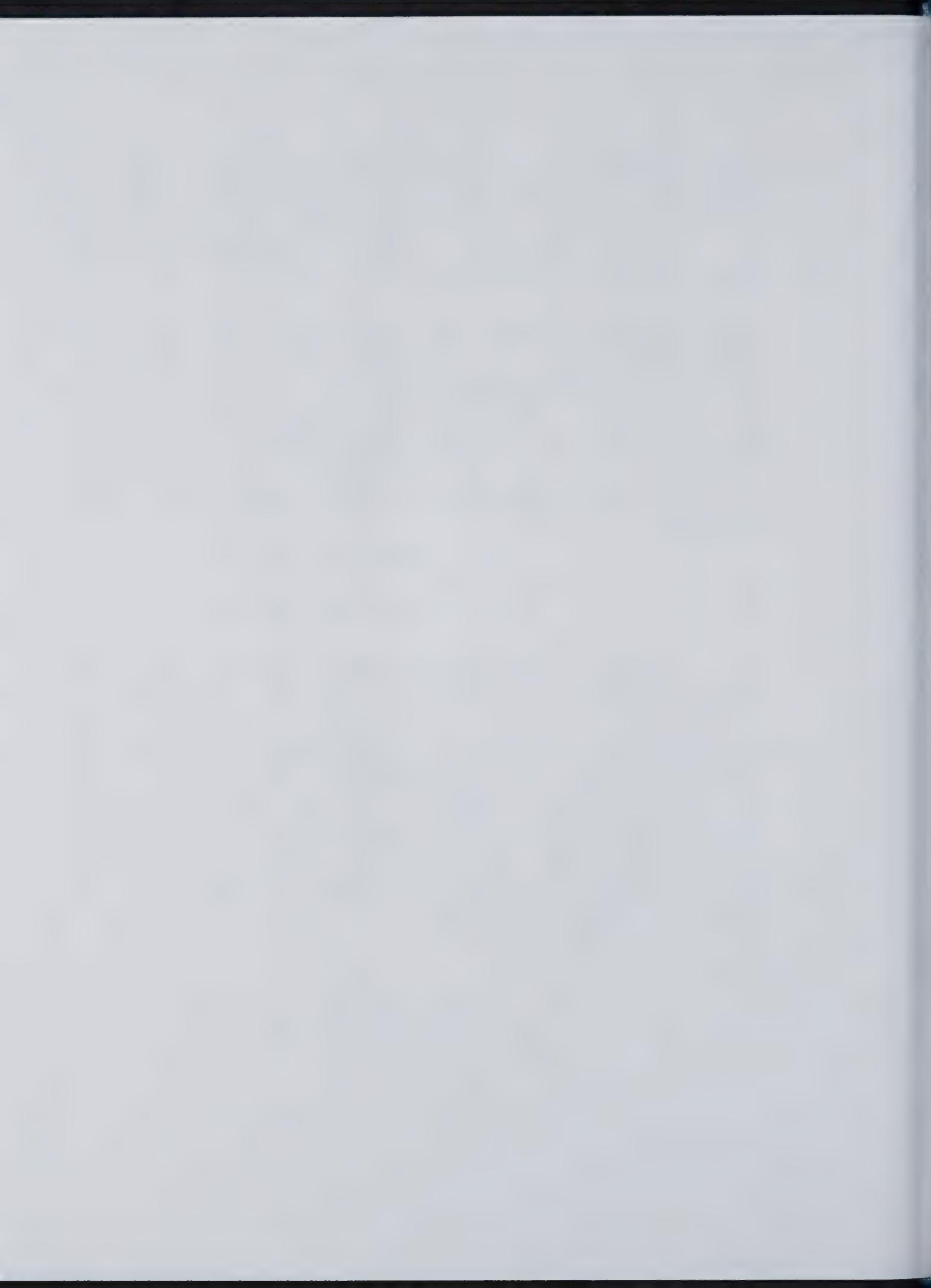
Very truly yours,

J. B. Milliman

(The following addendum was written between the lines appearing on the last page of the foregoing letter. CEB)

This is probably the last letter I shall write unless it may be in answer to someone of much importance which I may receive from some of the many friends at home. I have but one stamp and have no paper, envelopes, ink or pens -- only as I get from others -- which I do not like to do very often. Mine were all in my knapsack which some kind friend thought more of than they did of honesty and, consequently, he took the former and foresook the latter, thereby leaving me minus several very important little articles which, at present, I have not the means to replace. I hope soon to be in a little better situation.

J. B. Milliman
Co. G, 53rd R, Ind. Vol.
1st Brig. 4 Div. 17 A.C.



NOTES: (pertaining to the foregoing letter. CEB)

- (1) The initials, "J. B." denote John Bryant Milliman, a brother of Henry Milliman.
- (2) Judging from this letter, John Bryant Milliman was possessed of a good education and a sense of humor.
- (3) The envelope for this letter appears to have had no stamp affixed but may have had one when it was posted.



Wilmington, Delaware
June the 29, A.D., 1865

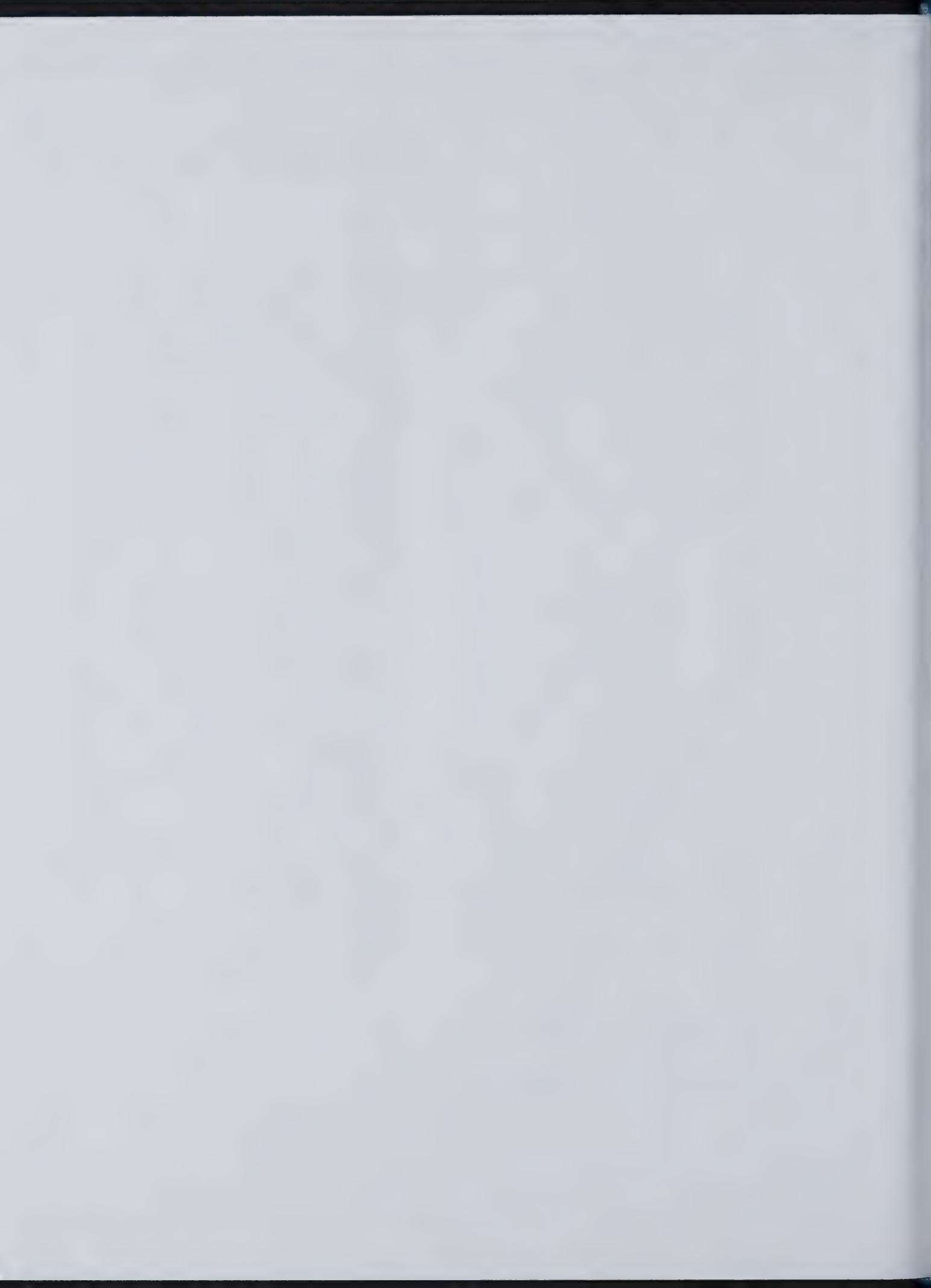
Mr. Henry Millerman, Respected brother --

The present time finds me seated once more to write you a few last lines in reply to the kind letter I received from you this morning mail. I was glad to hear from you and indeed happy to hear that you was all well and getting along well and that you had got moved in your own house. You said in your letter that you would have liked very well if I could have been there when Orin and his wife was there on a visit. Well, I don't think you would liked to have had me there any better than I would have liked to be there. I think I could have enjoyed myself best kind if I had been there, but it seems as though it wasn't to be so. Well, I am thankful that I am as well off here as I am. We are having much better times soldiering than I had expected when I enlisted. The duty here ain't hard and everything is brisk. No need of any person getting lonesome here in ths city. Some kind of amusement all the time. Well, brother, I hardly know what to write today, but I will tell you that I am cooking for the company. There are four of us that do the cooking. We have stoves to cook on and it is much nicer and better than it was when we was out in camp and had to cook everything out of doors in camp kettles. It ain't very hard, but I think I would enjoy myself much better if I was at home with my wife and little children. I can't see that I am doing much good here. The war is over now and I think they would as well send the men home, but that ain't for us to say. We enlisted and will be obliged to stay our time out if they see fit to keep us that long. I hardly think they will. I think we will all get home till Fall anyhow, if not sooner. Well, you said in your letter that my wife and children was over there and all looked so well. I was happy to hear that they was all well and enjoying good health. Well, I will close for this time by saying that I am well and hoping to hear from you soon again. Give my compliments to all and love to you and family.

Yours in love, as ever, your affectionate brother

Wm. A. Monroe

Direct your letters to
Wilmington, Delaware
Co. D, 155 Regt.
Indiana Vol.
in care of Capt. Silvers



Co. "D", 156th Reg. Ind. Vol.
Wilmington, Del. July 13th, 1865

Dear Brother and Sister:

I take the present opportunity to drop you a few lines in answer to yours of the 3rd which I received a few days since. I was glad to hear from you and to hear that you was well. Your letter found me in good health. Well, you spoke of the 4th that you expected to swing the cradle all day, but if you was to see me coming, that you would swing it into the fence corner and get up some kind of a bust. I only wish that could have been so, but instead of my coming home on the 4th I was in barracks kitchen at Wilmington cooking for about four hundred men. How is the wheat this year out there? I have heard the weevils were very hard on wheat in the west this year. I am glad and can rejoice with you that you have got into a house of your own. I know that must feel a great deal more at home. I should like, if I was there, to come and visit you in your new home. But I presume that it will be some time yet before I shall be able to pay you a visit. You spoke of father and Albert both being sick. I am quite to sorry to hear of that. I hope that by the time this reaches you that they will be well. I received a letter from home a few dys ago stating that they were all well and that you had been over there on a visit. Well, probably you would like to know what I think about coming home. I can't tell much about it yet. We are laying here doing nothing to amount to anything and the Reg. is at Dover doing less yet than we are. Our officers are getting big wages and not in danger of Rebel ball now, so they will keep us as long as they can; though I think that two months will put us out of the Service and we may get out in two weeks if we can get transportation. There are forty regiments laying at Baltimore now waiting for transportation to carry them to their homes. The 1st Del. is there and we have been cooking for them here every day this week. As soon as they come and are paid off and discharged we will probably leave here, for I think this military post will be broken up then, or against the 1st of August at fartherest. I wrote a letter to Jane at the same time that I wrote to you but have not received any answer to it yet. I will try to send you a likeness next week.

I will close for the present, hoping to soon hear from you again. Remember my respects to all that may inquire of me. Believe me your brother as ever.

Wm. A. Monroe



Norwalk. July 14 (prob. 1862 - CEB)

Dear Sister --

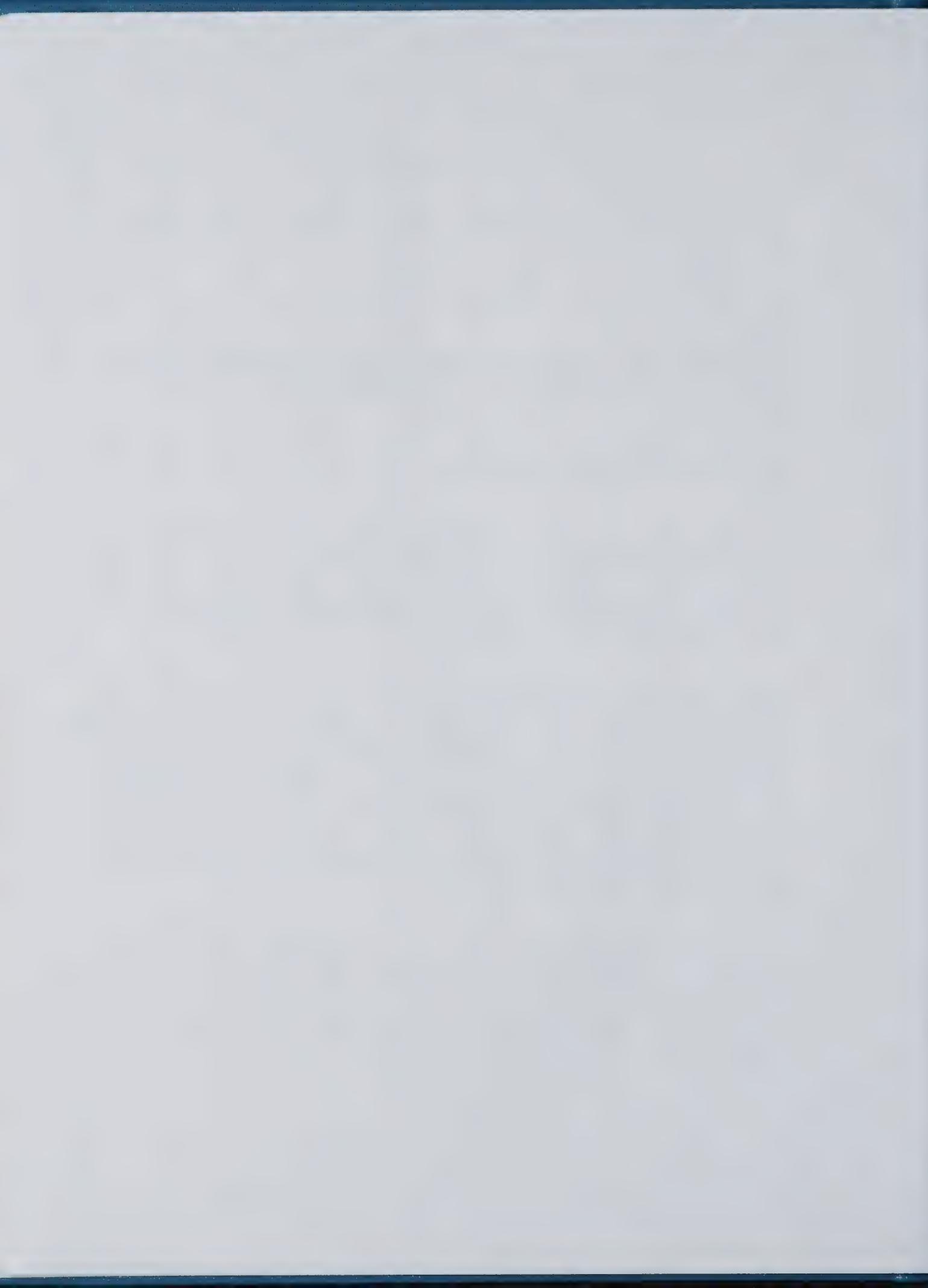
I received your letter last night and was very glad to hear from you and know that you are all well. We are all well at present and hope this will find you the same.

We are living in Norwalk and I am to work in the shops again. I commenced last October.

I sold my team this spring for three hundred dollars. We have just commenced harvest. We have been out to the farm today. Our wheat is good. We have 40 acres. I have one quarter. I am considerable of a farmer now. I keep 1 cow, 2 pigs, 13 hens and wife and two boys. Albert says tell little cousins he is coming out to see them some time.

Times is not very good at present. Money is scarce and there is no market for anything at present. The present opinion is that it will soon be better, for as soon as we clean out the Southern Confederacy, which we shall do soon, then times will be better. We have sent two companies of 100 men each from here and 1 colonel, 1 major, 2 adjutants. It has not been anything but 'War,' 'War,' for the last 3 months. Men were drilling in the street and soldiers going through on the cars most every day. I tell you it was exciting times, and if it had not been for wife and the babies they would have had one more recruit by the name of O. N. Monroe.

I should like to see you all very much and if nothing happens I think I shall before long. You said you thought of coming out here on a visit this Fall. O, I wish you would. I will come and meet you in Toledo if you will come. Only write what day you will come and when you want to go back. I will pay your fare back.



Tell Henry that I think that he might come out and see us as well as not and I wish he would. Tell William that I should like to see him and his folks very much, but as I can't, I send my love to them and that he must write to me. Tell Albert and father and Jane and all the folks to write often and I will answer them, for I think of you often and would like to hear from you, if I can't see you.

Now I must bring my letter to a close as it is 10 o'clock and Julia wants to go to bed. So goodbye for the present. Julie says do come out and see us. Goodbye.

from O. N. and J. A. Monroe
to H. E. Milliman

Write as soon as you get this.

NOTES: (CEB)

(1) "O. N." are the initials of Orin Monroe, a brother of Harriet (Monroe) Milliman.

(2) "James" refers to James Mortimer Milliman, a brother of Harriet's husband, Henry Milliman.

(3) "William," "Albert," and "Jane" were siblings of Orin Monroe.



July 25th 1862

Ever Loved and Faithful Wife: Fortune has placed me far away from your presents and lovely company. No sooner do I find myself away from you than I feel like taking up the pen, the only medium by which we can converse. I write to you to let you know how I am and where I am.

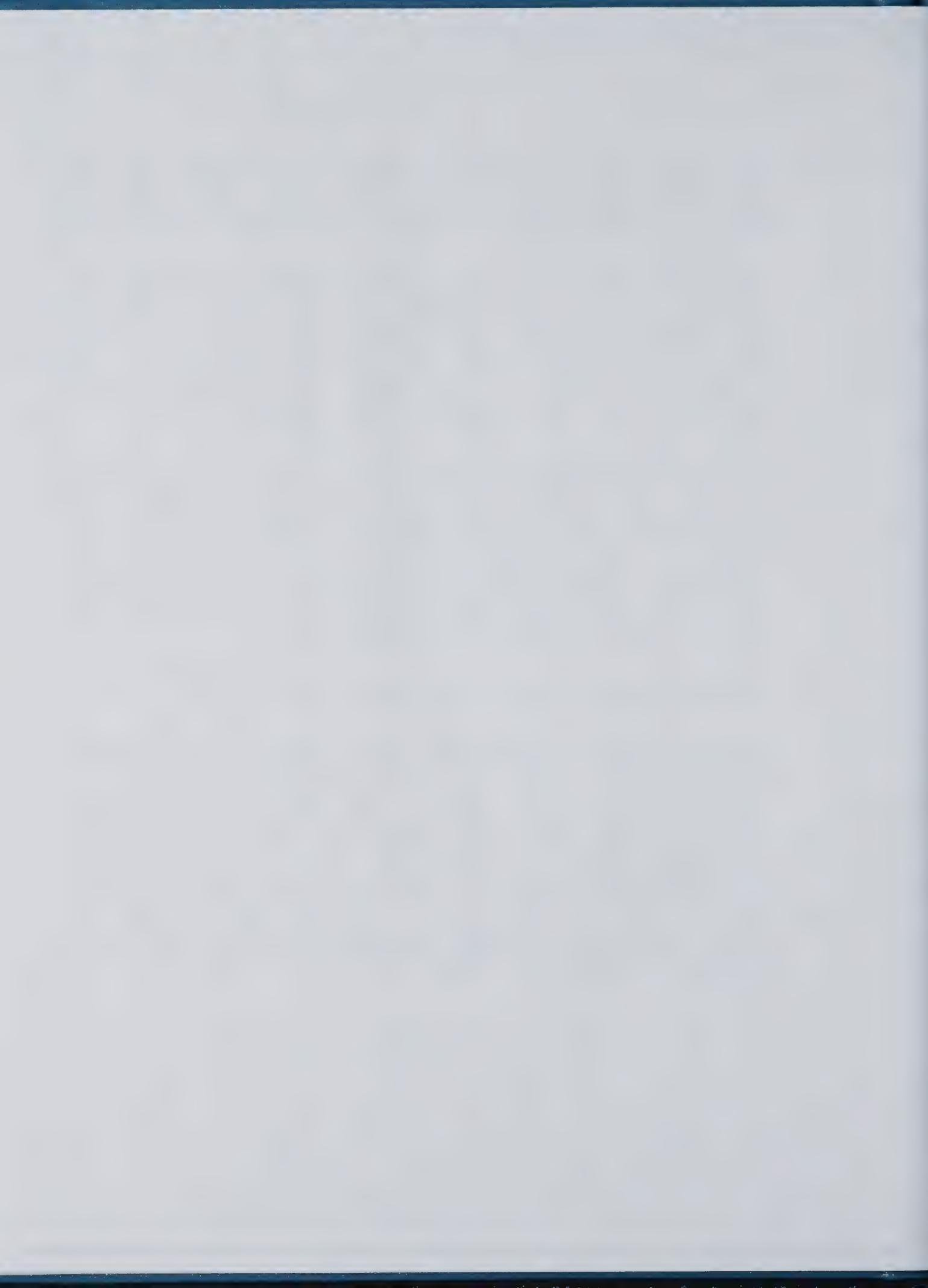
We left Ft. Wayne about four o'clock this morning and got to the capitol at half past ten. We went up to be examined. James got a furlough for 20 days and I got orders to go to the regiment. This will probably surprise you, for it did me. I did not suppose any doctor would pass me to the regiment as a man fit for duty, but that is the case. Yet it may be for the best. James thinks I will certainly get a discharge then, if I can get there. Whether I do or not I expect I must go and I hope you will not worry about me.

I told the doctor it was of no use for me to go for I could not carry my load half a mile and how long I had been sick. He said it was no sign that I would be sick any longer. He ordered me to go below and hand my furlough to the recorder and he would furnish me with a pass to the regiment. Of course, I had to do so. I cannot get my pass till tomorrow afternoon so I don't expect to leave here till next week. The doctor that examined me was a young fellow and they all said he was not fit to examine anyone. But one has to do as they are told here so I could do no better.

James was examined by another doctor. He says he most wishes he had not took his furlough and went with me.

I must bring my letter to close for I am quite tired. As James was a-going right back again tonight I thought I must write a little. I feel about as well as usual, excepting I am a little tired. I do hope and pray that you may be in the enjoyment of good health. Oh, Harriet, don't worry about me, for it will only make me feel worse if I hear that you feel so bad. Be as cheerful as you can, still trusting in God and hoping that we may soon meet again, never to part till death shall part us. I will bear all as patiently as I can, hoping for happier days. I cannot tell you where to direct a letter for there is no knowing where I will be before one could reach me. So goodbye for this time. From your ever affectionate husband and one that will love till death.

from Henry to Harriet



NOTES: (CEB)

Both Henry Milliman and his brother James Mortimer Milliman were afflicted with the malady commonly referred to during the time of the Civil War as "camp fever" and which took a heavy toll of lives. Contaminated drinking water and general poor sanitary conditions fostered this disease, recognized in later years as having been typhoid fever.

James also suffered a gunshot wound to his right arm during the Battle of Shiloh and was confined to the hospital at Nashville, Tenn. until finally discharged for disability in December, 1862.

Following the close of the War, Henry spent many years seeking a cure to provide relief from the effects of his war-time illness but apparently never achieved a great deal of success in this effort.



Nashville, july 28th / 62

Dear Harriet:

I take my pen up again to let you know how I get along. I am about as well as I was when I left home. I am very tired this morning. We had to walk over a mile from camp to town this morning and that was a pretty good walk for me. When I get rested I guess I will feel as well as usual. I hope these few lines will find you in the enjoyment of good health.

I left Indianapolis Saturday about half past six and got to Louisville about one in the night. Stayed there till morning, then took the cars for Nashville and got here about six the same evening.

Nashville is a good large town and most of it is well built, but the people are most all of the black order.

Mortimer is here yet but we expect to leave for the regiment in the morning. He is as well as usual. You may imagine my joy when I saw him, for there wasn't any of our Company along and it was as if I was a stranger in a strange land. When I saw him I felt as if I had found some one that would stick by me. Before I seen him I felt very lonely.

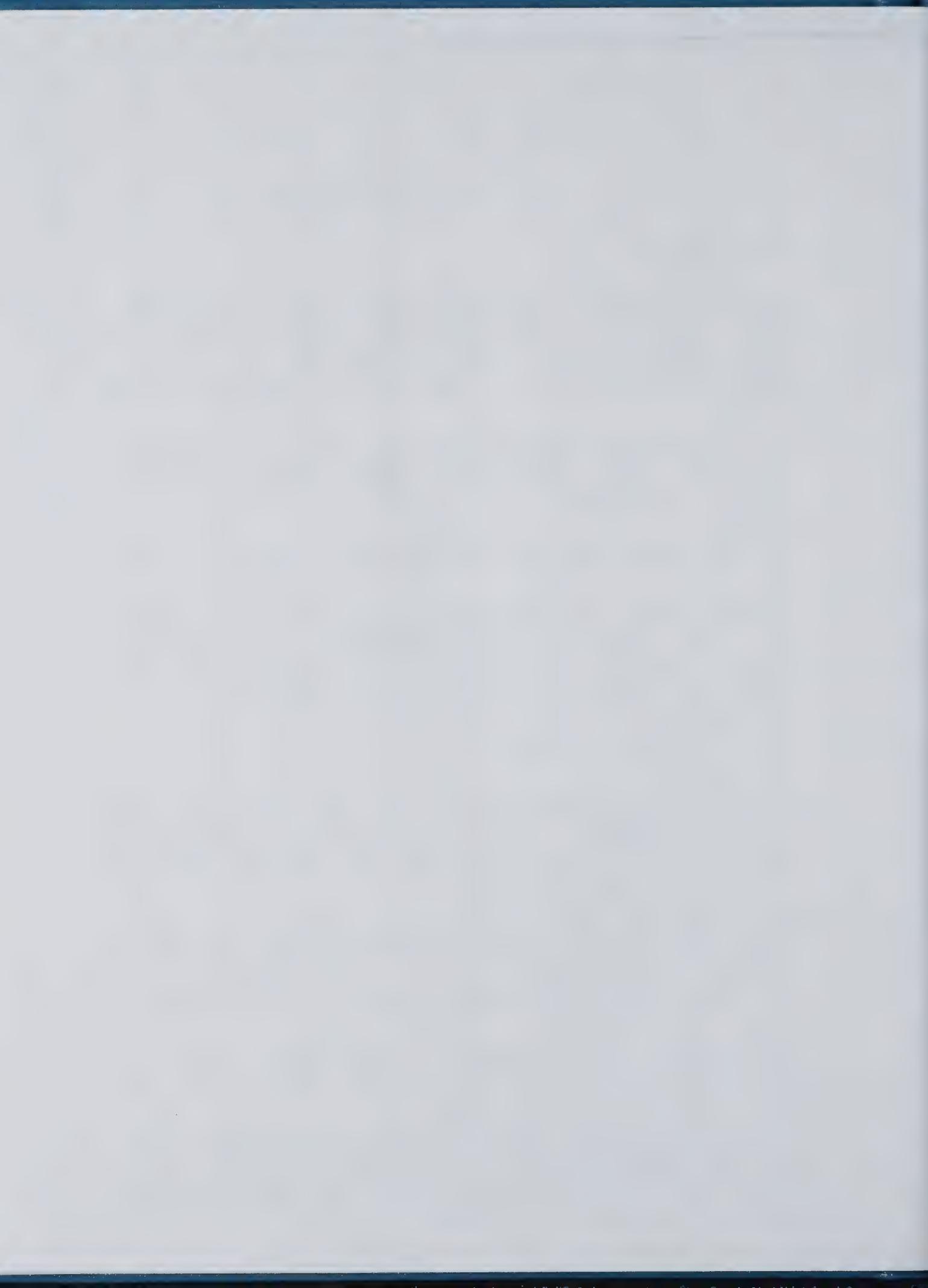
The weather is, of course, very hot here but not any hotter than I expected to find it.

The railroad from Louisville was one that I shall never forget, for it was almost one solid road of stone. Very hilly and sometimes there was perpendicular banks of stone as high as you could see, and then over gullies where you could look a hundred feet below. The road was built up of rock for the track to run over.

We came through Bowling Green and saw some of the rebels' works and where they had burned several large buildings and destroyed the locomotives and cars. Old Morgan has been tearing up the track betwixt Louisville and there but they have got it fixed again and well guarded. I guess they are pretty well routed in Kentucky again.

Our regiment is in Alabama on Battle Creek. I don't know how far it is but they calculate it will take us two days more to get there.

I must close for this time. Tell the rest of the folks I will write to them as soon as I can. This will have to do for the present for my hand is so nervous I can hardly write. Write as soon as you get this. If I should not stay



in the regiment it will do no hurt. Direct your letters to Henry Milliman, Co "F", 44th Reg. I.V.M., by the way of Louisville.

Try and not worry about me, dear Harriet, for I guess I will get along some way. I feel a good deal better since I got with Mortimer. I must bid you goodbye. Write soon.

from your ever affectionate husband,
Henry Milliman to Harriet Milliman.

Goodbye

NOTE: (CEB)

"Mortimer" refers to James Mortimer Milliman, brother of Henry Milliman.



Stevenson, Alabama
July 30th, 1862

Dear Wife:

Mortimer was a-writing a few lines to Maria. I thought I would also write a little to you and send it along with his.

We are as well as usual and I hope these few lines will find you well.

We left Nashville early yesterday morning and got to this little town called Stevenson in Alabama about four o'clock. We expected to go on to the regiment today and waited for the cars to come along till about three. When they came along we got aboard. They hadn't gone more than five rods when one of the wheels of the wood-car run off the track. They couldn't get it back in time, so we will have to lay here another night.

Our regiment is only thirteen miles from here on a creek called Battle Creek. They are expecting an attack there every day, but I don't think the rebels will attack them.

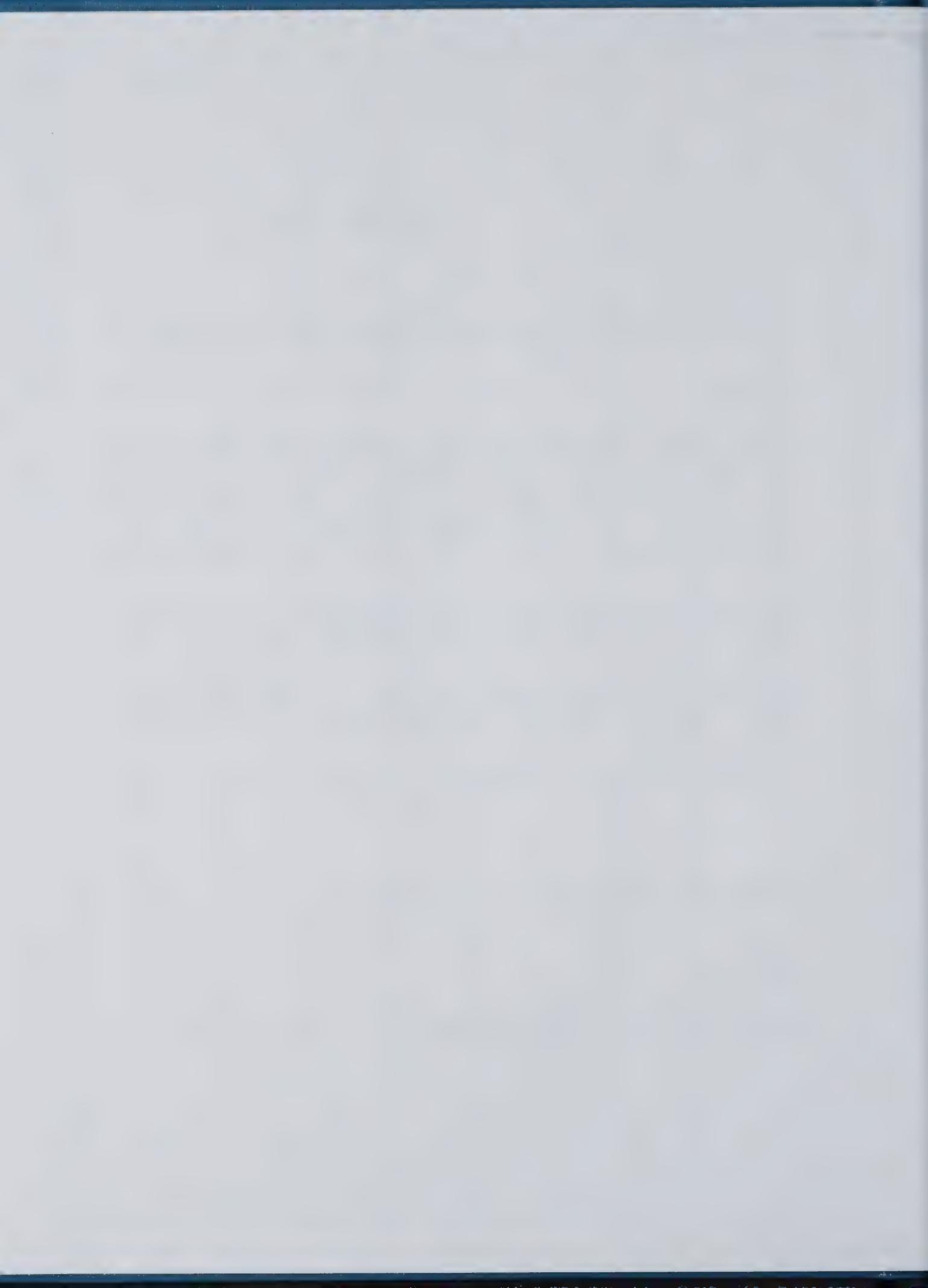
I must close, for it is getting dark. Excuse the shortness of my letter for the present. I will try and make it up when I get more time. I will write again as soon as we get to the regiment. So goodbye for the present.

From your husband Henry Milliman to Harriet Milliman.

Yours till death.

NOTE: (CEB)

"Mortimer" and "Maria" refers to James Mortimer Milliman, a brother of Henry Milliman, and his wife Mariah (Alton).



Battle Creek
August 2nd, 1862

Dear Wife:

This morning finds me seated once more with pen in hand to write to one that is nearest my heart and in all my thoughts. My thoughts are ever with you, although we are a great distance apart. If we were ten times as far apart, still my thoughts would rove back to you and to your kind and affectionate care through my sickness. Oh, when will this ungodly war close that is making thousands of hearts ache and thousands of hearths desolate and lonely. Who can say? None but the Superior Being who alone knoweth all things. Oh, that He would raise his all-powerful arm and stay this flood of misery and desolation.

I must change the subject for the present and let you know how I am getting along and how I found what boys there is left. My health is still improving slowly and I hope this will find you in the enjoyment of good health. Marshall and Bennet are well. Edwin is helping nurse at the hospital here, but is not very stout. The men, in general, are in the enjoyment of good health, although there has been two died out of our company lately. Charles Beverly died a little over a week before we got here. Charles Danks died the day we got here. Mortimer's arm is no better. He is well otherwise.

We are in Alabama, towards the north-east corner of the state and about a mile from the Tennessee River. There is some very good land here and there is some very large hills. You might say mountains, for they are said to be some of them sixteen hundred feet high. Nearly our whole line of travel from Louisville has been over a very rough and crooked road. In places it would wind around the sides of mountains, where you could look down rocky precipices on one side, and look up the same kind of a wall on the other side. Then over shakey bridges, hastily constructed by the soldiers, that would squeak and shake, threatening every moment to dash us into the streams that gurgled along hundreds of feet below. Then through dark tunnels drilled through the solid mountains of rocks. In short, we passed over one of the most wild and dangerous roads that can be found. As kind fortune would have it, we got safe through. I stood the journey far better than would have been expected.

The camp is about four miles from the railroad, but I got a chance to ride out to camp. I got into camp just one week from the time I left Ft. Wayne.

There is a good deal of cotton planted around through the



country. As we came along the road we could see large droves of negroes of both sexes and of all ages and sizes working in the fields while a great many of their masters are fighting against us.

The army has been on half rations for nearly three weeks, but I guess they made it up by foraging. That is, by going out into the country and taking whatever they can get their hands on. If they take from a Union man they give him security for what they get. If they come across an old Secesh they don't show him much mercy. They help themselves to whatever they can find. They drive away their cattle, sheep and hogs and carry off their turkeys, geese, ducks and hens, apples and peaches and everything that they could put to any use. They have lots of chickens, turkeys, ducks, lambs and young goats tied up all over the camp. The roosters crow around, making one think of home.

There is no such thing as getting a discharge here now, but they will excuse me from duty as long as I am unwell. The doctor would give discharges, but he says that the General won't sign any more so it is no use for him to write them.

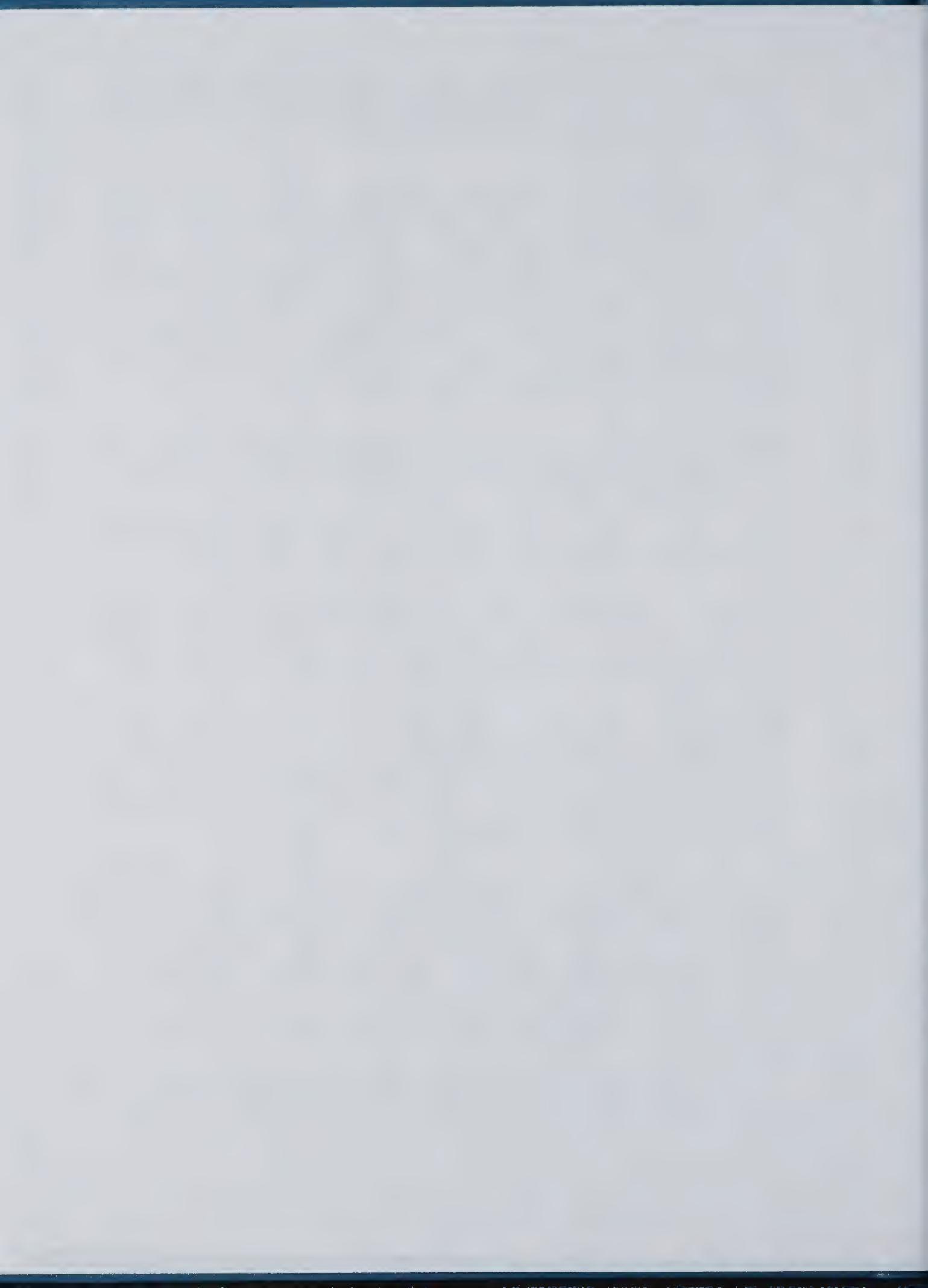
Don't worry about me, Harriet. I will get along very well as long as we stay here, attenuate (at any rate CEB) I won't have anything to do, only when I am a mind to.

It is a nice place here and the probability is that they will stay here for some time, for they have gone over about as much ground as they can guard. They will have to wait till they get more men before they make any further advance. Still there is no knowing what they may do.

The rebels hold the other side of the river. They are frequently in swimming on the other side of the river while our men are in on this side. They have long talks together. They say they will shoot all of their officers and go home if we will do the same. I think myself that it would be a pretty good way of settling the war. If it was left to the men to settle, there would be no more fighting.

I must close for the present. I guess I will send this letter by a man that is going home tomorrow, so it will be mailed at Waterloo. Mail doesn't go or come any ways regular here. I have wrote you four letters besides this since I left home. How many of them you have got, I can't say, but I hope you have got them all. Write often and tell the rest to write and I will write to them as soon as I can. Paper cannot be had here at any price. I will have to be as saving as I can so as not to run out before I can get some more.

I would just say before I close, that the troops around here are moving up the river and it is thought that there is



going to be a fight up that way. I must bid you goodbye for the present. Give my love to all and tell all to write.

from Henry to Harriet

NOTES: (CEB)

- (1) "Marshall" refers to Marshall Hadsell.
- (2) "Bennett" refers to Bennett Robe, one of the soldiers from DeKalb Co., Ind. who died in the Civil War.
- (3) "Edwin" refers to Edwin Coburn, son of John F. Coburn, who devoted his life to the ministry following close of the Civil War.
- (4) "Mortimer" Milliman suffered a severe wound to one arm which led to his ultimate discharge from the service.



Sunday, August the 17th, 1862

Dearest Kind and Affectionate Husband:

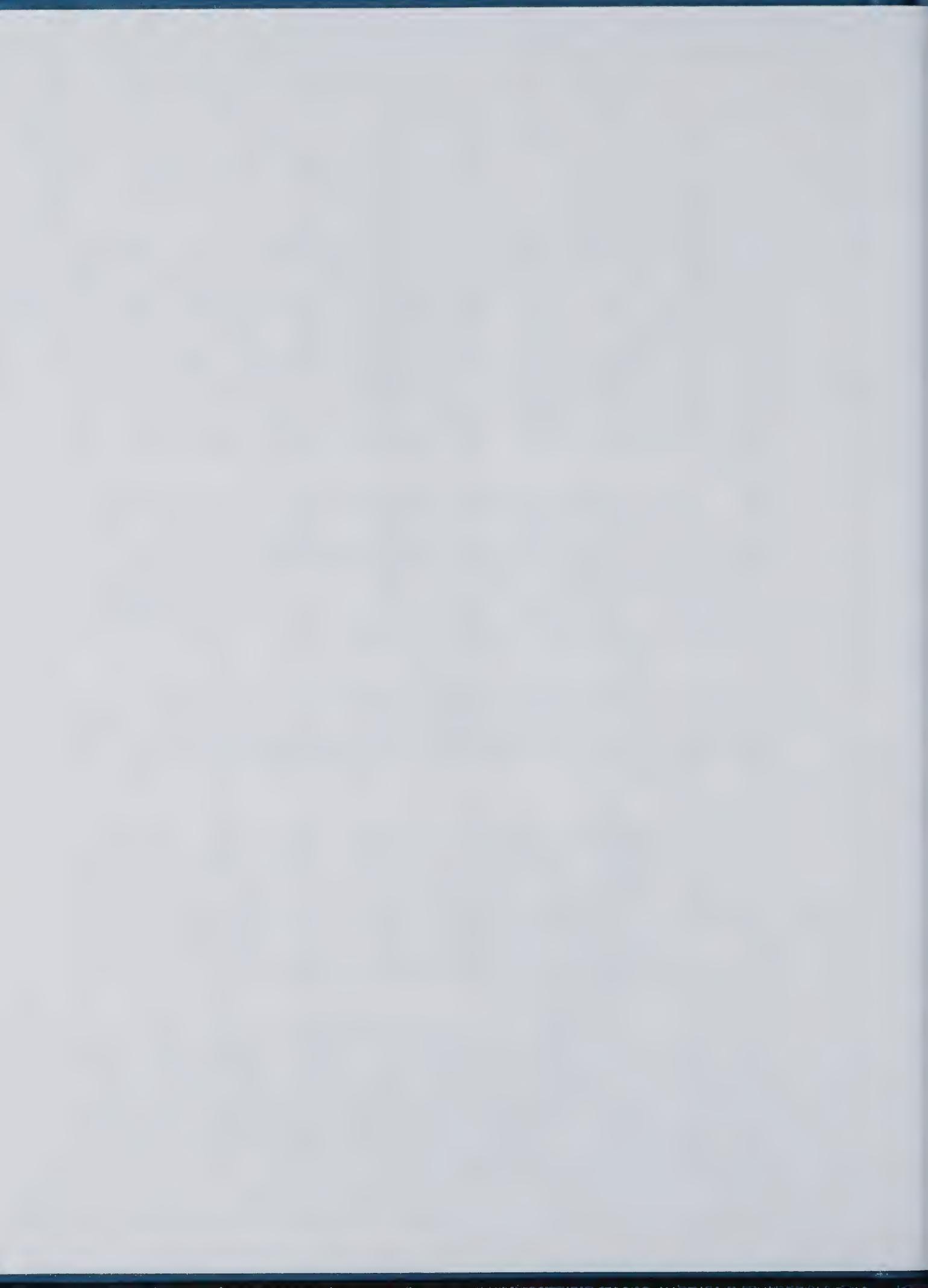
This pleasant sabbath morning finds me seated by my window with pen in hand to write a few more lines to you. Know that I am still in the land of the living and blessed with a great deal better health than could be expected under the circumstances in which I have been placed. But I suppose you know what they are, long before this time. I wrote to you last week and told you all the particulars. But should you not, I hope you will not fret and worry about me, for I am getting stout again and feel in hopes that my health may be better than it has been for a long time. But time alone can tell whether or not this can be so. I will hope for the best.

Dear Henry, another week is past and gone. Oh how anxious I have watched the fleeting moments as they glided along until the day arrived when I expected to hear from you. But, alas, when it came it brought no news for me and never was I more disappointed in my life. But this morning I am trying to content myself by writing to you, the one I hold dearest on earth. It is hard, very hard, to be separated from you in this hour of peril. I will try and bear it as patient as I can, for your dear sake, if nothing else.

Well Henry, I guess I have heard from you at last and I feel a little better. Father got a letter from you this week and he says that you have got to the regiment once more. I am glad you have got with some of your mess-mates once more and feel thankful that you stood your journey as well as you did.

Bryant got a letter from Mortimer and he said there was hopes of your getting a discharge, if you only worked it right. Oh Henry, try and do your best to get one. I feel in hopes that they will give you one. Henry, I think you had better get a discharged furlough if you can't get a full discharge. It seems to me as if you would not stand it long away off there when your health is so poor. Let me entreat you to come if you possibly can. I would get some of the rest of the boys to help me get one if you can. I feel in hopes that they will.

Mortimer wrote that you had the diarrhea again. Oh Henry, this was sad news for me to hear. I feel in hopes that you have got it stopped before this time. Oh Henry, be as careful of your health as you can and don't get discouraged. Put your trust in Him who has said, "not a sparrow shall fall un-cared for." I am hoping that you may yet return home and live in the enjoyment of the blessings for which you have so long been suffering.



This is the fourth letter I have written to you and two to Mortimer. I am afraid you will not get the others, for I have not directed them right. I feel in hopes that you will get this one. I know you must feel lonely away off there and not hearing a word from home.

Times are very hard here at present, and very exciting. They have got up another company for the army at Newville. They have taken most all of the men from that place. There are only 2 young men left in town. That is Albert Dawson and William Selah. I wrote you a list of their names in my other letter. If you got that you will know the most of them that enlisted in town yesterday. They all met at Newville and were sworn into the United States Service and elected their officers. Mr. L. J. Blair got in as Captain, Andy Yagly as 2nd Lieutenant. Who their other officers were, I did not hear. There was 93 sworn in. Some of the soldiers were not there.

I must tell you about the wedding. Philena was married last Thursday. They had a picnic at Mr. Flint's. There was 50 at the wedding. I suppose they had a grand time. I did not go. I thought you was not here to enjoy it with me, so I staid at home.

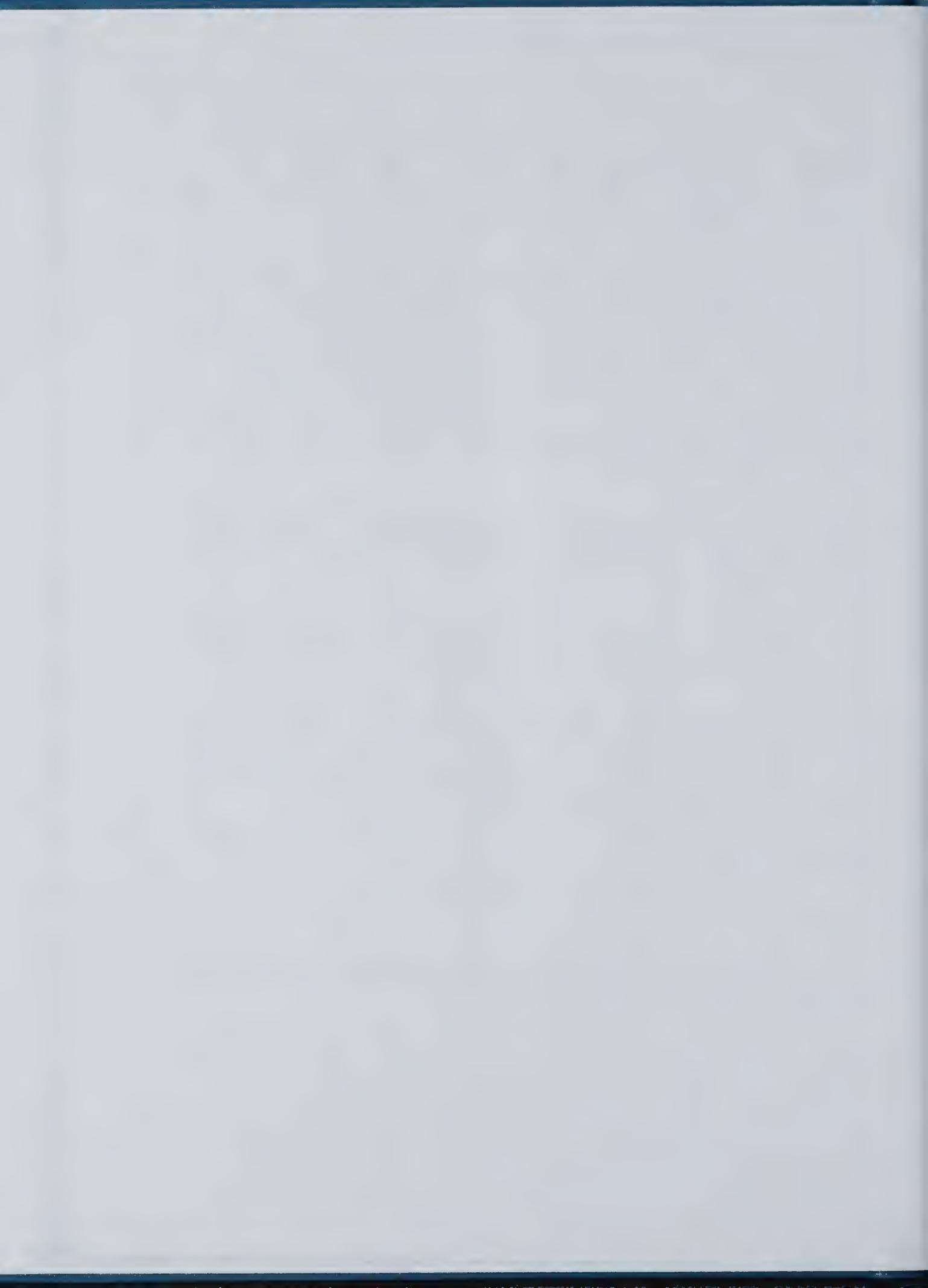
It is a general time of health here. Helen is about as she was when you left. The rest are all well as far as I know. Marion is well and as fat as a china pig.

As my sheet is almost full, I shall have to close. Before I do, let me ask you to try and come home if you possbly can. For my sake, if nothing else. Write as soon as you get this. Let me know all, so that I may share everything with you. Don't keep anything from me. I must close by saying be careful of your poor health and write often.

Goodbye from one that loves you more than all others.
Farewell, from

Hattie to Henry

I will send you a list of the names of those that enlisted, for fear you did not get the other letter.



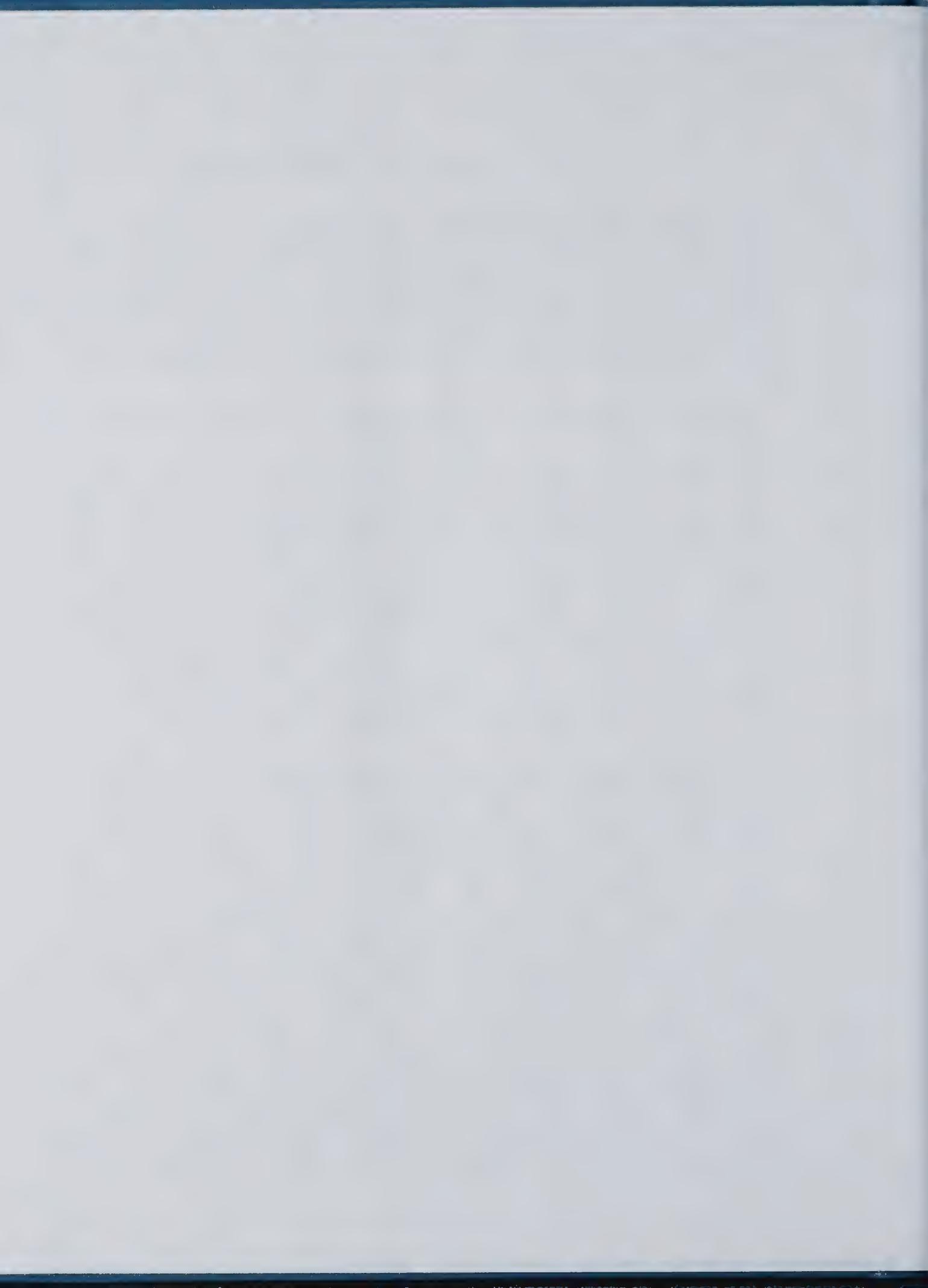
Nashville. Sept. 9th 1862

Ever Kind and Faithful Wife: I take my pen in hand to let you know I am still in the land of the living. I expect you begin to think I am either dead or that I have forgotten you by this time. You will see by this that I am still alive and, as for forgetting you, I might as well try to forget to breathe. Forget you! Never, so long as my heart beats! Death alone can make me forget you. Let me be where I will, or happen what will, you're ever present in my thoughts and your kindness to me will never be forgotten.

I must try and tell you how and where I have been. You will see why I have not wrote for so long a time.

Our division left Battle Creek the twentieth of last month and made a two-days march up the Tennessee River, then had to march back most to where they was before they could cross the mountains. They had a hard time getting over. They had to burn a good many things because they couldn't draw them over. It took them two days, but they got over at last without any accident except some broken down wagons and lame horses. Since then they marched towards this place and passed through here night before last. I expect they will go right ahead into Kentucky. Some say clear to Louisville but there is no telling. The hole army seems to be retreating back north. They have been pouring through Nashville in one continual stream for a week. Now, while I am waiting, the long streams of wagons are rattelin by.

I kept with the regiment till about a week ago. They gave me the privilege of staying with the teams so I could ride when I was a mind to. So I got along the first four or five days very well and kept gaining strength. It was not destined to last long. On the fifth day, I think it was, I was taken quite sick and was pretty bad for several days. I had to ride all the time in the ambulance for there was no place to leave me till they got to Murpheysburrow, about thirty miles from here. I was left there the 3rd of the present month and was brought here on the cars the next day. I stayed with some of our boys that were here guarding some of our baggage that was sent on the cars. When the regiment came they sent after their things and I rode out to camp. There I got three letters -- all from you! You can imagine my joy when I received them. But my joy fled when I read the news that one of them contained. I will say no more about it in this sheet. I stayed in camp that night and was sent back to town, with several others, to the hospital. We had hard work to find a place where they could keep us. Mortimer came back with us and helped get a place for us to stay. If it hadn't been for him I guess we would have had to lay in the streets, for he was the only one that was able



to run around much to find a place. We finally got a pretty good place. They took us and washed us up and give us clean clothes and a comfortable bed. You may believe I was glad to get a chance to rest. I had jolted around so long and got so sore and my bones ached so I could hardly stand it. I feel a good deal better now, since I got a chance to rest. I feel in hopes that I will be as well as common again in a few days. Mortimer is down to convalescent camp about a mile from here, but he is going on to the regiment the first chance he can get. Edwin Coburn is here and several others that I am acquainted with, so I am not without company.

You will see by this that we have been on the move all the while and had no chance to write whatsoever. The last letter I wrote I sent by Newton Thomas. I guess I can write oftener again now. At least I will write when I have a chance. You must not worry about me if you don't get a letter as often as you expect. There is no knowing when the rebels my tear up the track between here and Louisville so as to stop the mail for a while. They burned four bridges but a short time ago but I believe they are about fixed again.

I have had four letters from you by mail and one that David Andress brought to me.

We were all very glad to hear that the men were turning out so freely to help put down this most unholy rebellion. I am sorry that it is necessary, but I know that it is. So the sooner they turn out the better it will be.

It appears in some of your letters that you still worry about my being out of money. Don't worry, for I have had all I wanted to use. I sold Mortimer my revolver and he raised me most four dollars on that. So I have plenty to last me for some time, for I don't need to spend any of any account here. I hated to part with it but it was of no use to me, so I thought I would let him have it. He will pay the rest to you when he gets home. Don't let it all go, for Mr. Rex can wait a little while for part of his pay better than you can do without the money. If I shouldn't get up with the regiment by the time they draw there is no knowing when I can send any money home.

I will have to close this letter but will write more in a few days. I don't expect it will be of any use for you to write to me again till you get another letter from me. I don't know how to have them directed yet so they will come. I will write again in a day or two and let you know.

Don't worry about me, dear Harriet, and keep up good courage. Try and be carefull of your health and don't work too hard. I must bid you goodbye. This from one that thinks of you often, to one that is dearer to me than life.



from Henry to Hattie

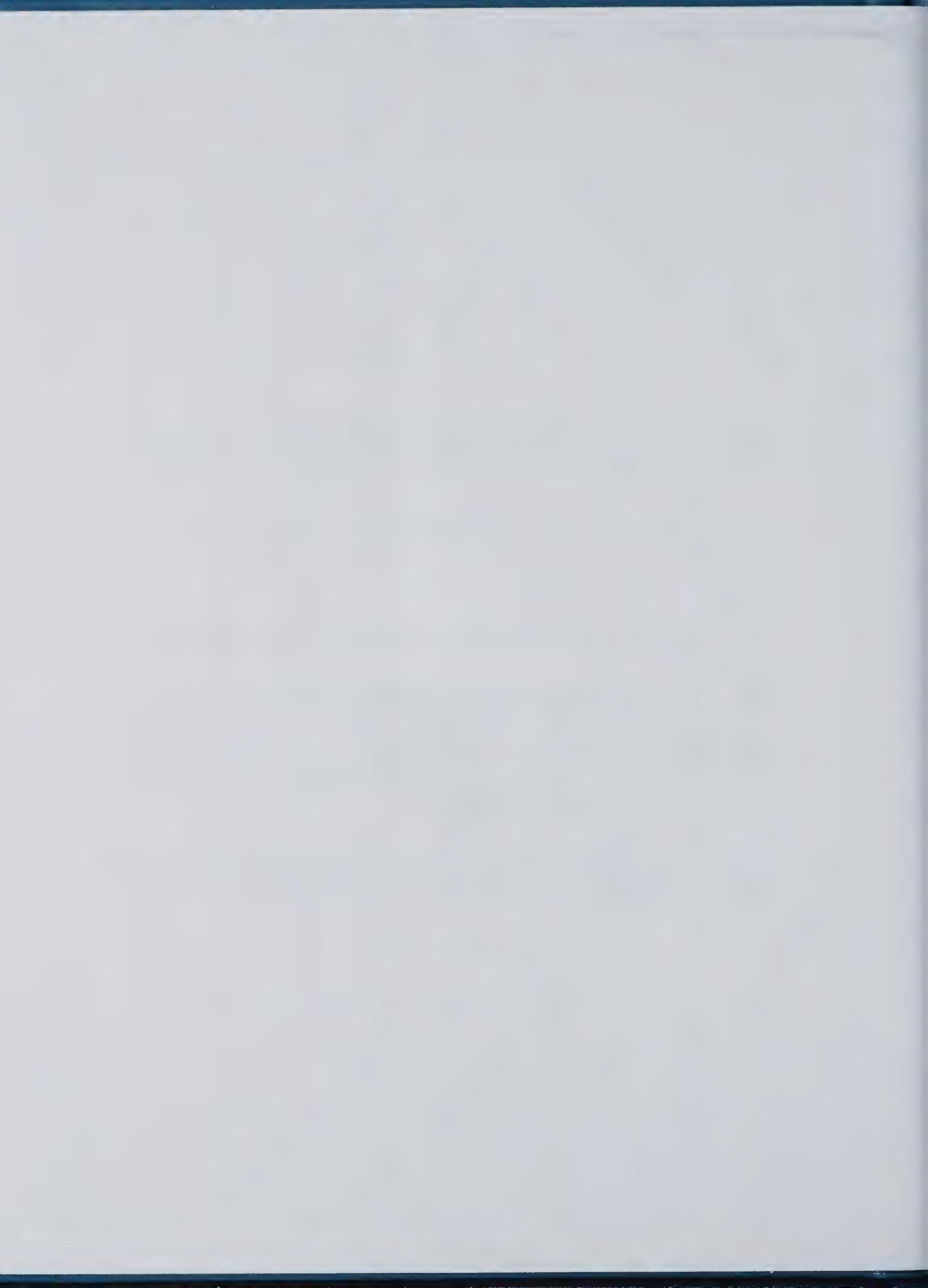
I guess you will have hard work to make some of this out. I had no place to write, only by taking a book on my knee. laid my paper on that to write, so excuse poor writing.

NOTES: (CEB)

(1) "Bryant" refers to John Bryant Milliman, a brother of Henry Milliman.

(2) "Philena" refers to Philena Mahala Gee who married first Horace Benjamin and upon his early death; married second Horace's cousin, David Benjamin, who also died early. She then married third in 1862 Asa Hall, a widower with young children. Philena also survived her third husband and a common marker is provided for the three of them in Alton Cemetery, DeKalb Co., Indiana.

(3) "Mr. Flint" was Lemuel Flint whose second wife was, Mrs. Hannah Hoyt Gee, the mother of Philena Mahala Gee and Cynthia Lovesta Gee, the latter marrying William Riley Coburn.



Norwalk, Nov. 2nd, 1862

Ever loved and remembered sister --

It is with pleasure that I sit down to write you a few lines in answer to your letter which we received last night. We were very glad to hear from you, and to know that you were enjoying good health at present and hope this may find you in the same enjoyment, for without this great blessing, life is not much comfort to ourselves or our friends. We are having all kinds of weather here, last Sunday morning the snow was about four or five inches deep but it did not last long. This week has been very pleasant and warm. This morning it was as warm and pleasant as Summer. Tonight it has been raining and the wind is blowing and cold as January. I am still to work in the shop. We have plenty of work. We have built 50 new freight cars this Summer and have got 8 more to build and 20 platform cars, besides plenty of repairing. Everything is up to the highest price here. Flour is \$6.75 per barrel, potatoes 75 cts., butter 18 and 20 cts. per pound, 3-foot wood is worth \$2.50 per cord and hard to get at that. As for dry goods, they are out of the reach of laboring people. So we have got to wear our old ones until things take a change, which there is not much prospect of at present. You did not write one word about Henry. Where he is or how he is a-getting along, or when you had heard from him last. Tell Melvin that now he is old enough to go with the girls that he must improve the time to the best advantage and not let any of the boys get the start of him. Albert has just gone to bed. He says tell his cousins that he wants to see them real bad. I can't tell now what time I will come out there, but if I have no bad luck I shall come sure this Winter. I talk of buying me a house and lot. I shall know this week if I do. I don't like to pay \$72 dollars per year for rent. It seems like throwing it away. I don't know as I can think of any more to write tonight. Give our love to all inquiring friends, if any there be, and write as soon as you get this scribbling of mine.

This from your brother and sister,
O. N. and J. A. Monroe

NOTE: (CEB)

"Melvin" refers to Melvin Monroe, a son of Orin Monroe's brother, Albert Monroe.



General Hospital No. 8, Ward No. 1
Nashville, Tennessee Dec. 21st, 1862

Dear Brother and Sister:

I will try to pen a few lines today to let you know that I am still in the land of the living and appear to be gaining slowly. I hope these few lines may find you enjoying the blessings of health. I would like better to be there or, as it is Sunday, I would like to be there to go to the old meeting house with you, rather than to have to be here scribbling. But it is as it is and can't be helped. Now, only to make the best of it and content myself as well as I can.

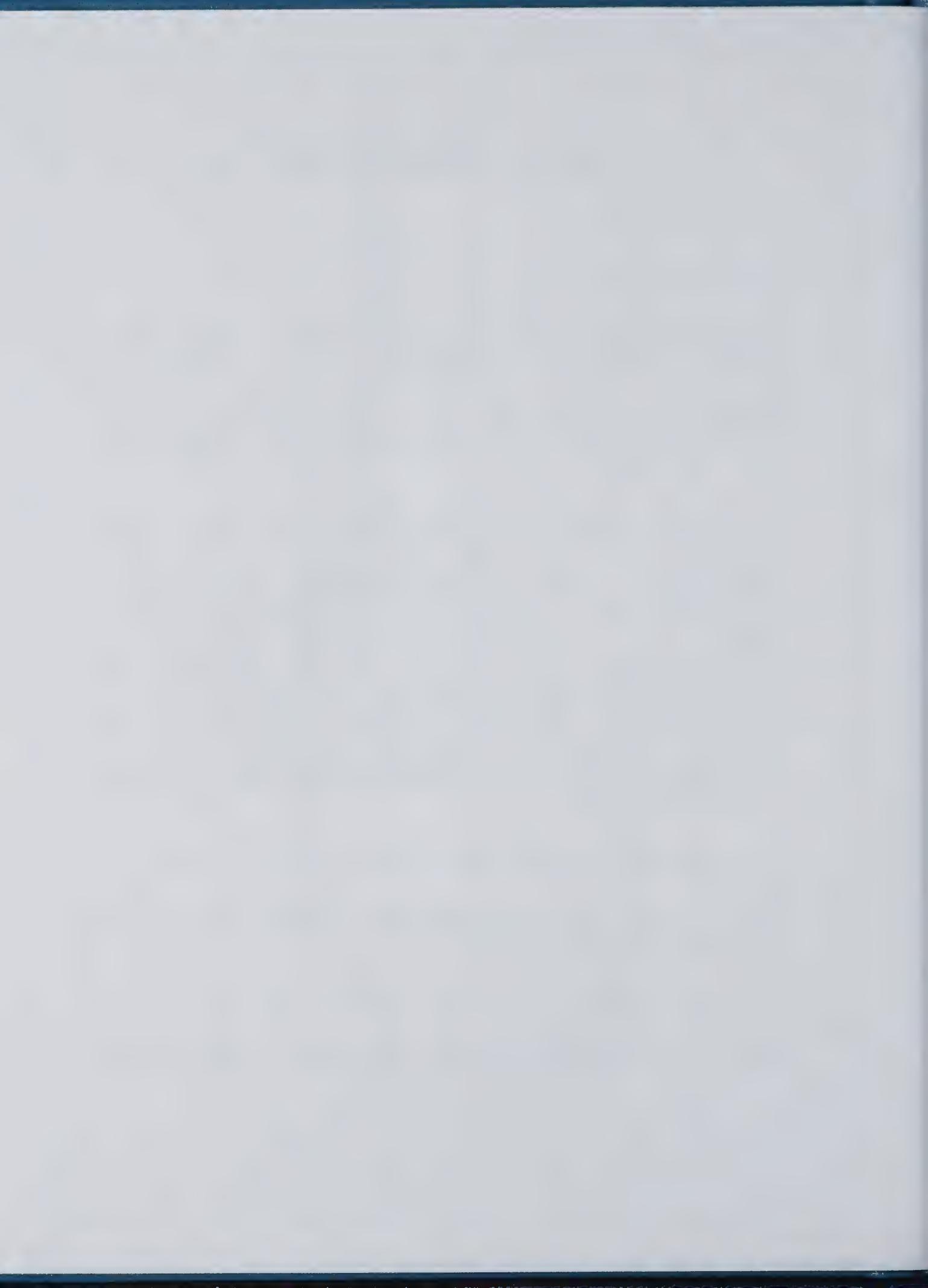
I will try to do this, a little while, by writing. I write to someone nearly every day for the last few days. To one, I write a letter full of hope that I will be permitted to come home in a few days then something turns up a little discouraging. I have been disappointed and fooled around so many times that I go and write a discouraging letter to someone else. It is because I am about discouraged and who would not be. To proceed, I am a little encouraged again now. The clerk told me this morning that my papers were through all but one man's hands. He had expected them in yesterday and that probably they would be in tomorrow. I do hope they will for Lieut. DeLong is going to start home tomorrow, or next day, if his son gets no worse. He is sick with the measles. So is Harry Platter. There is some hope that they will be taken to New Albany where there are better accomodations than here.

The dinner bell has rung and I will lay this by. Maybe till tomorrow.

Well, I have eaten my dinner and read a while, lay abed a couple of hours and now, just at dark, or dusk, will try to write a little while.

I got a letter from Maria yesterday. She was as well as could be expected.

There is so much confusion that I can hardly write. It is one of the noisiest hospitals I ever saw. There are about



150 men in this one room and half, or more, have colds. They, with what I help, keep up a terrible barking. That, with the gassers and the rattle of army wagons over the stony street in our front, makes music enough. This, too, night and day. But it is getting too dark to write so I will bid you goodnight.

Governor Morton, long may he live, has sent a man here to see to the Indiana boys that are here sick and to take them to a place where they can be provided for.

Dec. 22nd

Dear Brother and Sister:

I had the pleasure of receiving your letter of the 7th this morning. I was very glad to hear from you again and to learn that you were getting along so well. I commenced this calculating to send it to Charley's folks but, on getting your letter, I changed my mind.

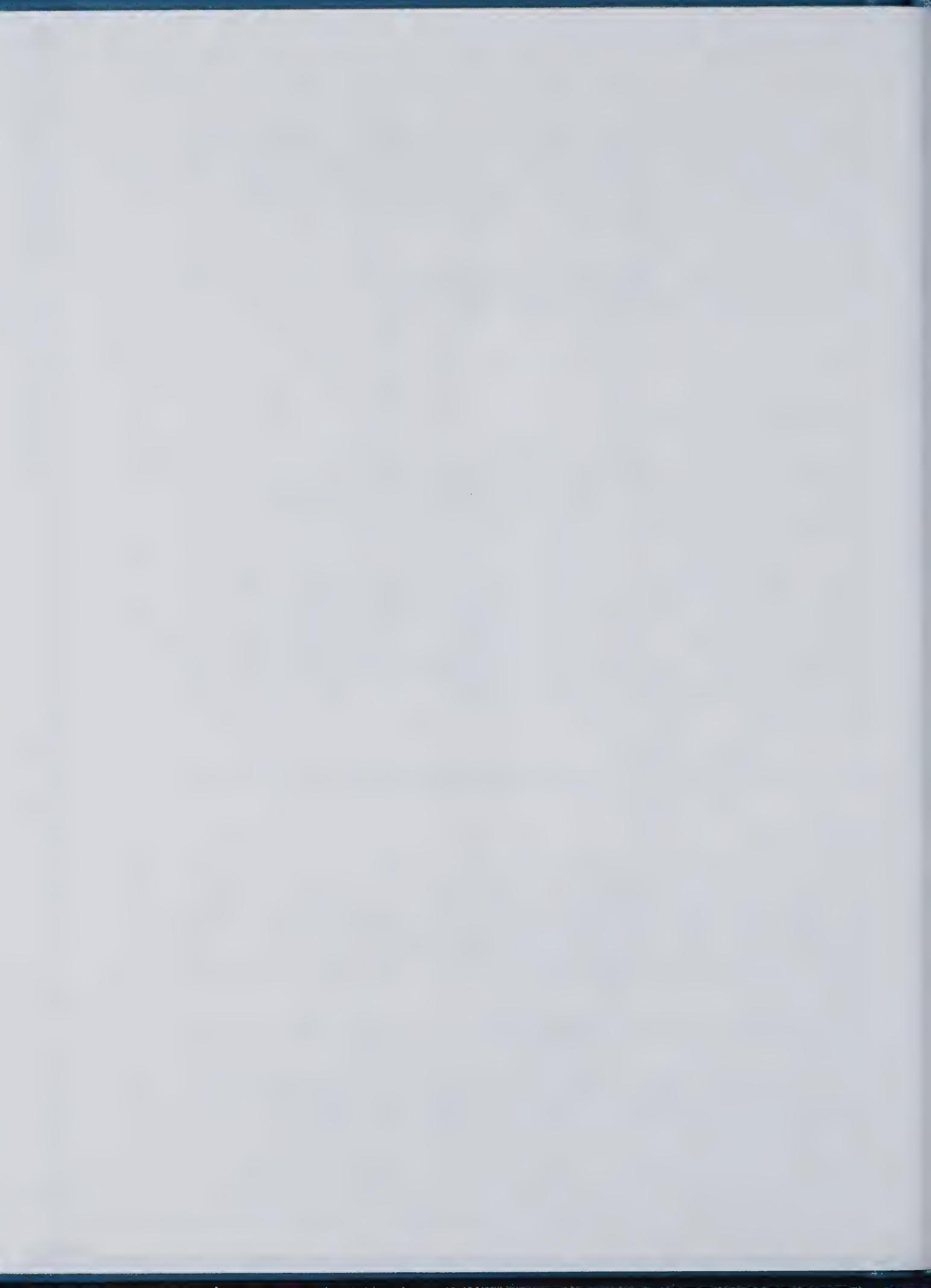
I am better than when you left, for I lay three or four weeks after that, so low that the boys said they were looking for me to die every day. Thanks to a divine Providence, I am yet permitted to be classed among the living. However, I am yet very weak and gain very slowly in strength, and not any of consequence in flesh that I can see. I am in hopes of getting started for home some time this week if.....

NOTES: (CEB)

(1) The remainder of the foregoing letter is missing. However, it is assumed to have been written by James Mortimer Milliman inasmuch as he acknowledges having received a letter from Maria who was his wife. Also, his discharge was authorized on the 18 DEC 1862 so he would have been released from service about the time this letter was written.

(2) No doubt, the letter was addressed to Henry and Harriet Milliman.

(3) "Charley" must refer to Charles and Almira (Milliman) Coburn, she having been a sister of James Mortimer and Henry Milliman.

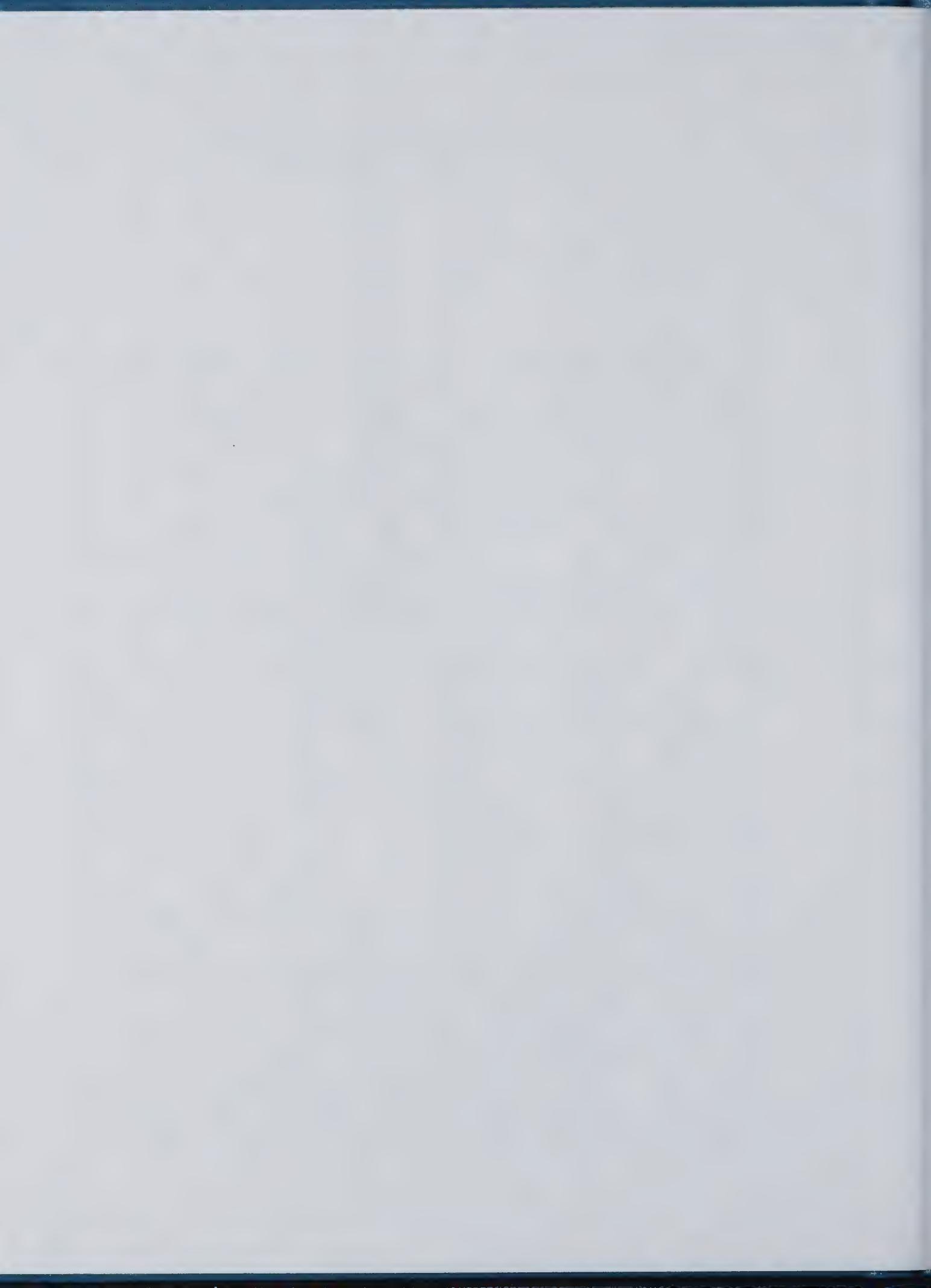


Casnovia, Dec. 16th 1866

(Please hand this to Tip)

(To Henry Milliman)

Dear brother and sister: I will try to pen a few lines to you to let you know how we are. We are away up here in Mich. among the woods and swamps and all well. We got along first rate seeing as how the roads was frosty bad. We was on the road just eight days. I have got a school and get \$35 per month and board. My school is two miles and a half from home, or the place where we stay. I have taught six days but have let out till Wednesday. I am going to the Rapids tomorrow to get my things. The roads have been so very bad that I could not get them away before. We have Winter here now. It froze up last week and snowed about four inches and it has snowed about three or four more today. We will go with the sled. I wish you would write and let me know what kind of weather you have there. I was up to the Fremont Settlement about eighteen miles from here week before last. They were all well up there as far as I went and that was pretty near around. I went to Dan Kimeses, Dan Faunes, Uncle Ben's, Cy Abels, Ance Roots and Sam Coburns. Ben is getting along first rate. He works for \$2.50 and board per day. He says he can make more here jobbing than there on account of lumber being so much easier worked and he says he can do a job about one third quicker than there. He has got his place all payed for but one payment. He has got a good (80). I don't like the country here at all, but a little way north of here I like it mighty well. I like it middling well up in Fremont. There is in these regions about here just as good land as ever lay outdoors. Russ can tell you that there is just as poor. If he can't I am sure that I can. You can get tip-top land up here for about \$5 per acre, but you will have to go back from the road, or to a new settlement. I am not sorry that I am here, though it would have been better to have waited till Spring. It costs very high to live here. There is so many coming in that there is hardly provisions enough here to support them till crops are raised again. Wages for good work hands is from 25 to 30 dollars per month. If "Fly" had not played me such a mean trick it would not have cost me so much. I should have sent her back by Russ. That is, if he hadn't sold his team this side of the Rapids. I guess he would have taken her but he hated to. The night before he started she got out. I did not get them till the next day about ten o'clock. So I was out there. I don't know what to do with her but to keep her. I expect Billy don't know



what to do either. I tried to get George Perry to ride her down, but he wouldn't. Him and Hen Thornburg were here together. They said they had rather walk. Maybe I will get light of a chance to sell her yet, or something else, and then it will come out all right. I can't sell my wagon either. There is the poorest kind of a chance to sell horses and wagons here now, for there has been so many brought in. I would like to know how you and Dave got along in the peddling dicker, and what your expenses were and whether you made anything out of the shed. Write me all the news all over Israel, especially how Russ got home and whether he sold the team. If he did, how much did he get. Write how all of our folks get along, especially father and mother. Give my love to them all and write soon. Accept this from your brother Mort.

P. S. -- You spoke about the safe dicker that night and said just let the balance of it stand. I was kind of bothered that night and didn't think what you meant. I calculated to have given you a note for the balance of it but forgot it. If I can't get the money for you when due, you borrow it. Tell me what them things come to that I sold you that night. I have forgot. I must close. Write soon. Direct to Casnovia, Muskegon Co., Mich.

NOTES: (CEB)

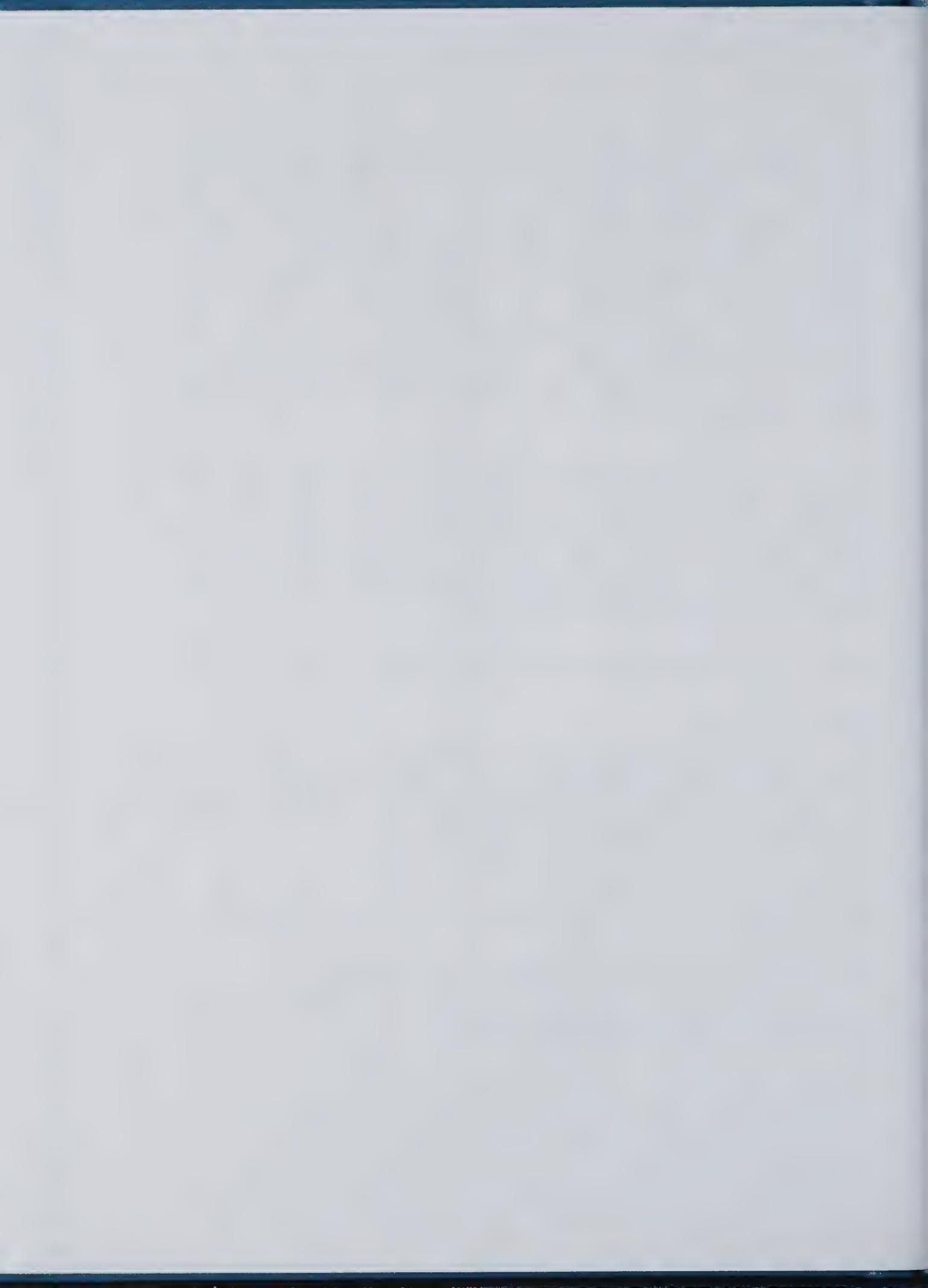
(1) Mention made of "Dan Kimes, Dan Faunce, Uncle Ben's, Cy Abels, Ance Roots, and Sam Coburns" refers to families from the Coburn's Corner area of DeKalb Co., Ind. who relocated to Newaygo Co., Mich. in search of favorable land costs and an opportunity to improve their economic lot.

(2) "Uncle Ben's" refers to Benjamin Alton Jr.

(3) "Fly" and "Billy" were horses belonging to Mortimer Milliman.

(4) "Dave" is believed to refer to David Andress.

(5) "Russ" refers no doubt to Russell G. Coburn whose wife Polly was a sister of Mortimer Milliman.

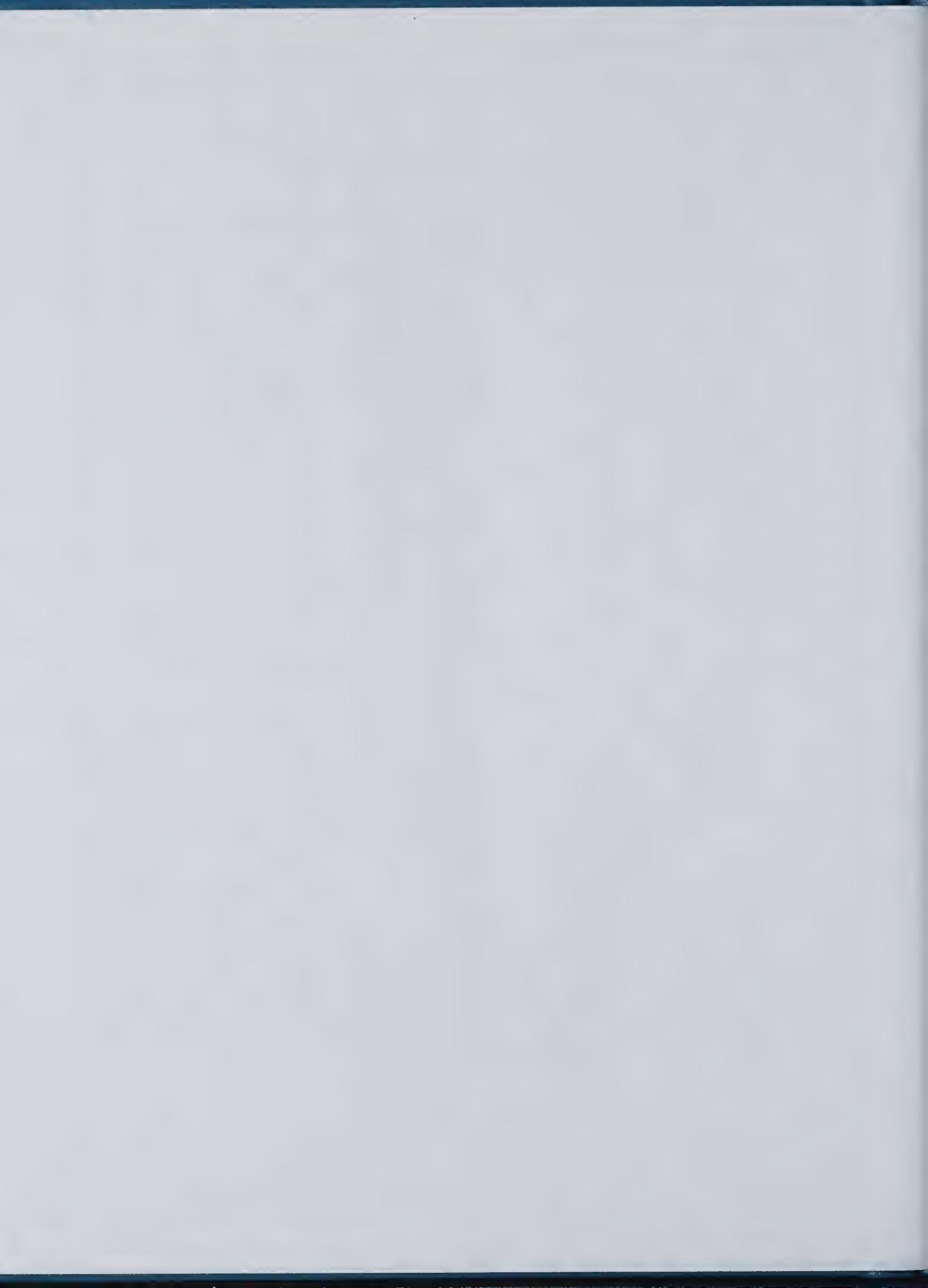


Casinovia, Dec. 16, 1866

Dear Brother and Sisters and Jane and Ann:

I thought I would pen you a few lines to let you know how homesick I am but since snow came and covered up the mud and now I feel better I am right here and have not seen but very few. I have not been to Fremont yet. They talk of coming over Christmas or New Year. We surmise there will be one less Alton girl before long. I guess she will get Andy and not (), but enough. Bert is pretty well. He is cunning, or thinks he is. He does not feel as well for two or three days. I am glad we have woolen clothes. I shan't consent to ever wear cotton as long as wool grows. I would like to see you all and especially Sundays. I am so lonesome Sundays. I don't know but I shall go up yet unless I can get to where I can go to meeting. I wish I had stayed there till Spring. I could live there on what we almost give away. Buckwheat is six and one half a hundred, pork ten cents. Pork is down. Mort bought a venison and we have got some of it dried. I don't like it cooked very well. It don't taste enough like my nature -- not enough like hog. I don't like lean meat. Corn is \$1.25 and awful poor. Hay \$20.00 a ton and some pay any price to get it. Wheat is three and a half a bushel. Ann Coburn is here. Orson started off to work today. He gets \$30.00 per month six miles from home. If you find mistakes lay it to visiting, for I can't think, let alone write. I shall miss lots of things when I get to keeping house by myself. I don't feel quite at home but get along pretty well, but I am so trifling and the children take up lots of my time. I can't get as much home work done as Deal does, but we will get along nice till Spring, I think. Deal will not sit down till every chore is done. So you see our work goes along together. I save her every step I can but babies take time. The house is small or I would do my work separate and then I should feel better. I wish I could see you all but I guess I will get weaned. I had one thing in view and have that yet. I think we can pay for a home here and there we never could. I think you would be homesick for a while here but afterwards I guess you would be pretty well satisfied. Miller's folks are homesick -- or at least he is, but the women folks say they did not want to come and now they won't go back. The old woman says Mother fronted her about her clothes. She said she wanted her black chain. She did not understand how it was, but she was fronted. I must stop by telling you to sell out and come up here in the Spring. Money is plenty and work to be had most any time. Write soon. goodbye. Tell Jane to write and Ann and all that think enough of Mort or me or both.

Maria



NOTES: (pertaining to the foregoing letter. CEB)

(1) "Bert" refers to Albert, child of Mortimer and Maria Milliman.

(2) "Orson" refers to Orson Headley, a native of DeKalb Co., Ind. who relocated to Newaygo Co., Mich.

(3) "Deal" is believed to refer to Mary Ardelia (Coburn), wife of Albert Alton with whom Maria and Mortimer Milliman resided for a time in Muskegon Co., Mich.

(4) "Jane" was Jane (Monroe) Milliman, widow of Warren Milliman.

(5) "Ann" was Sarah Ann (Milliman) Abel, a sister of Henry and Mortimer Milliman.



Jan. 6th / 67

Dear Brothers and Sisters and Parents all:

I will write a few lines to you all. You are now so near together that one letter will reach you all.

I am well but Maria last Wednesday was sick, though she was getting better but was not able to get home. She is up in the Fremont Settlement. The children were well when I left. I had to come home to go into my school again. I have about 30 scholars. So far I have taught 18 days. I like the inhabitants and parents very well. I guess if we don't have too much sickness I guess we will get along. My health so far has been very good. So has that of the children. Maria's health was good till she went up to Fremont. She caught cold and was pretty sick for two or three days. She will probably be home this week.

Them molasses came through alright and comes very acceptable.

I have not seen Perry yet. He has gone up to Big Rapids to try to get work. They looked for him back yesterday but he has not come yet. We have a light now so I can see my marks and I will try the pen again. Well, brother Tip, I got a letter from you and Billy last week and was glad that you were all well there and hope these pale lines will find all of you yet in the enjoyment of the same rich blessings.

I have no particular news to write you farther than that it is generally healthy here. There is plenty of money here, and plenty of chances for work, but provision is very high and it will take all a man can earn to live on. They say it is a great deal worse here this year than it generally is on account of a poor season to raise crops last Summer, and so many people coming in this Fall and Winter and the great amount of lumbering that is going on. It is said that there will be more lumber took out of the woods this Winter than has ever been known of before.

I was down to the Rapids two or three weeks ago. Will and Tommy Monroe and there folk were all well. I believe Bill was teaming. They asked me to go and see them. I calculated to go but I went to the auction a little while and then there was a fire broke out in town and I went to see that. When I got back it was bedtime so I turned in. I didn't have time in the morning, so I didn't see any of the rest. Henry Strong has been here and stayed with me about three days. He has now gone to Big Rapids.



When you write again tell me all the news in Israel and particularly how father and mother's health is and how you and all the rest get along. Tell Jane and Ann to write to me. I can't write to all the different ones at once. They must not feel slighted on that account. You are all there together and can all know when one gets a letter.

from James M. M. to all the relations in Israel.

NOTES: (CEB)

(1) "Perry" refers to Oliver Perry Coburn, a native of DeKalb Co., Ind. and son of John H. Coburn.

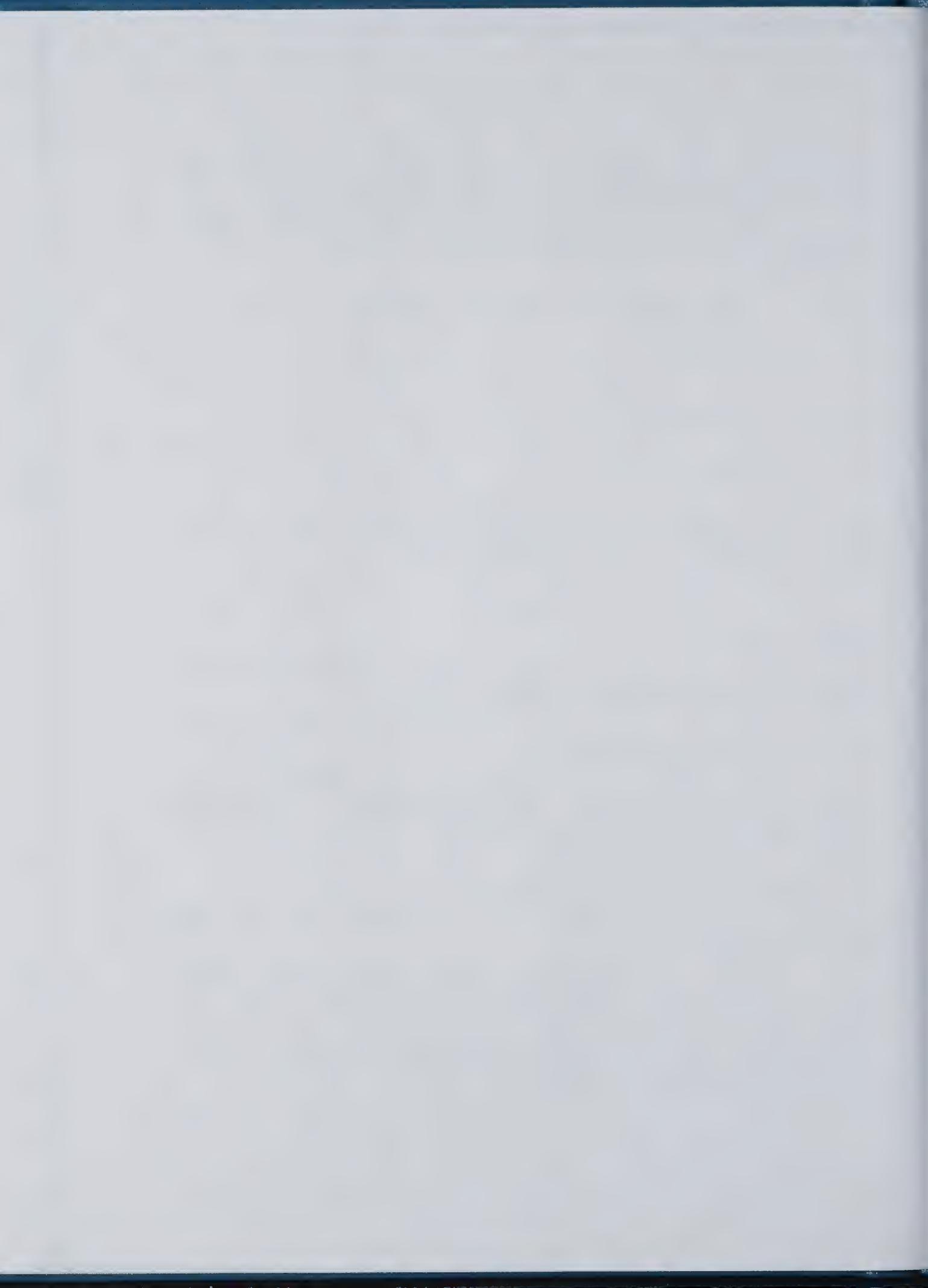
(2) "Will" refers to William A. Alton, a brother of Harriet Milliman and Jane Milliman.

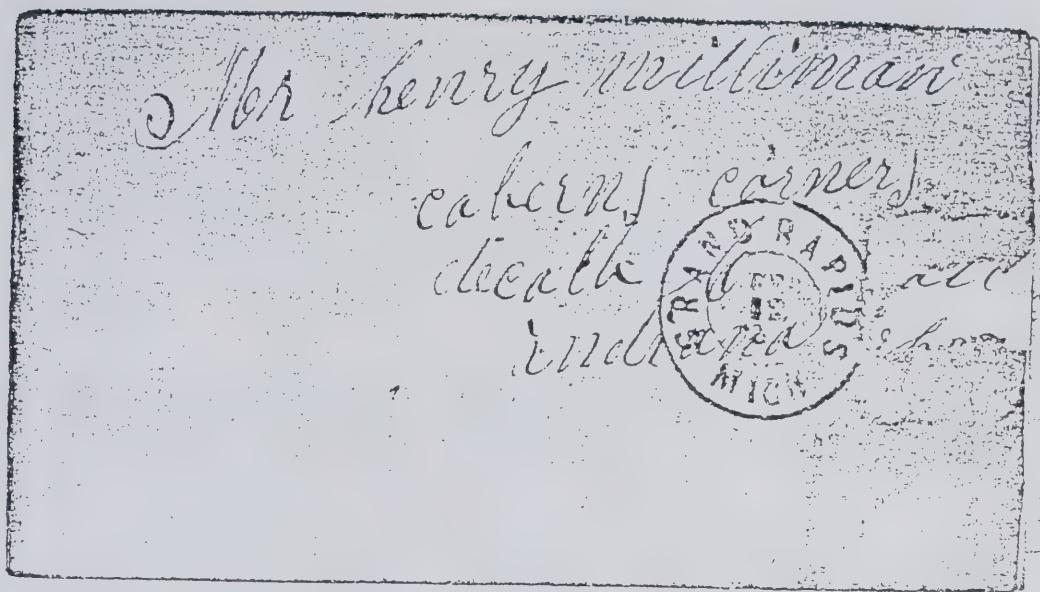
(3) "Tommy" refers to the son by a previous marriage of Henrietta, the 2nd wife of Younglove Monroe. It appears that Tommy used the Monroe surname but may not have been adopted by Younglove.

(4) "Billy" is taken to be the son of William A. Monroe.

(5) "Ann" refers to Sarah Ann Abel, sister of Mortimer and Henry Milliman.

(6) "Israel" is believed to apply to the area in DeKalb Co., Ind. where the Alton Cemetery is located (one mile north of the Church of Christ at Coburn's Corner). If this is correct, it is the same area that was later called "Cheesetown" when cheese was being produced there and today is commonly referred to simply as "Alton."





February the 10th A. D. 1867

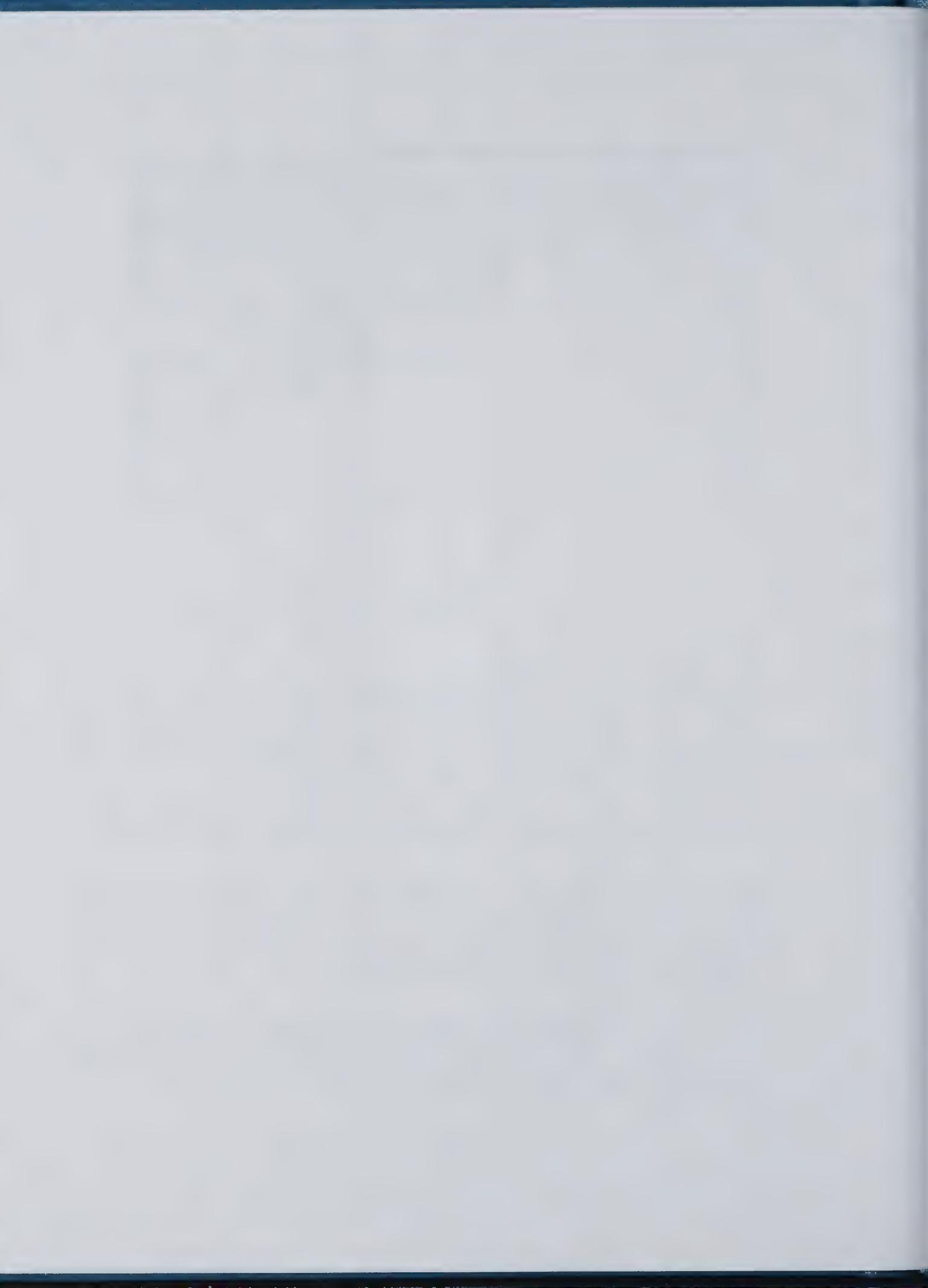
Dear Brother and Sisters:

I take my pen in hand to let you know how we are getting along. We are all well except the children has got a bad cold. We received your letter and was glad to hear from you and sorry to hear that you was ill and hope when these few lines come to hand it may find you all well.

I was very sorry to her that you had had luck with your colt. I am hauling plaster for a living now and I haul fifty five hundred with my colts at one load.

Mort Milliman was here the other night and stayed here all night and he says that he don't like it up there. He said that he would go back in the Spring. We have had good sleighing here all Winter and it ain't quite as good now as it has been thawing. Everything is very high here. Hay is worth 25 dollars here now.

You didn't say anything about Jane and when you write again I want both of you to write. The children is going to school here. We have a good school here. We have nine months in a year here. I don't want you to forget to write and often.



I think if you keep on you will soon be healthy. I have had one of my teeth pulled since I have been here. I think that mother is failing all the time and father's health is not very good this Winter.

I would like to see you all very well. The children would like to see you the best kind. I think that I will go to Iowa in the Spring.

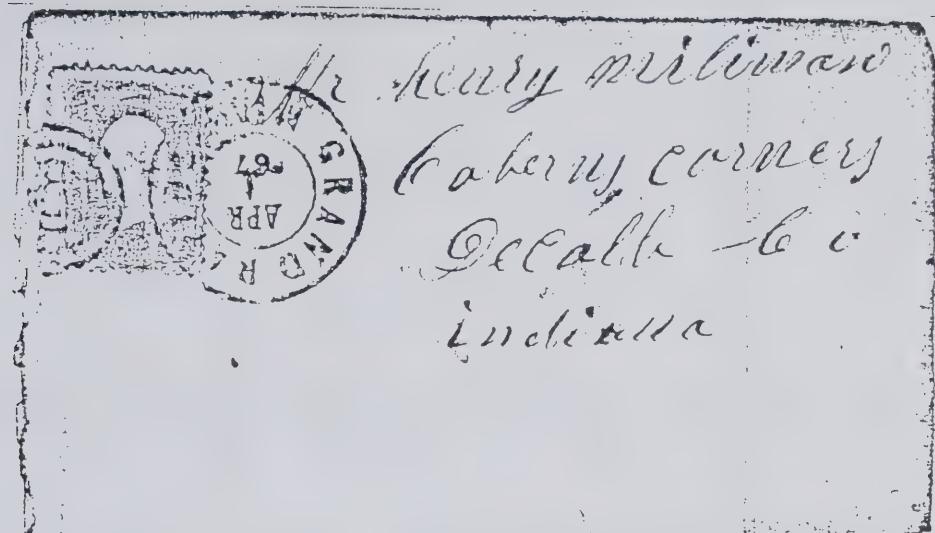
Jane, that little dog that father had has ran and left him again. Tell Henry that I would like to be there to help him get out his timber for his barn.

I think when I write to Emily it will be after today. She thought that I was such a disgrace to her and her children that I shouldn't think that she wouldn't want me to write her. When she writes to me, and writes as she ought to, I will write to her. and not before.

I guess that I will close for this time by asking you to write soon and often.

This is from William and Isabella Monroe
to Henry and Harriet and Jane Milliman.





April the 10, A. D. 1867

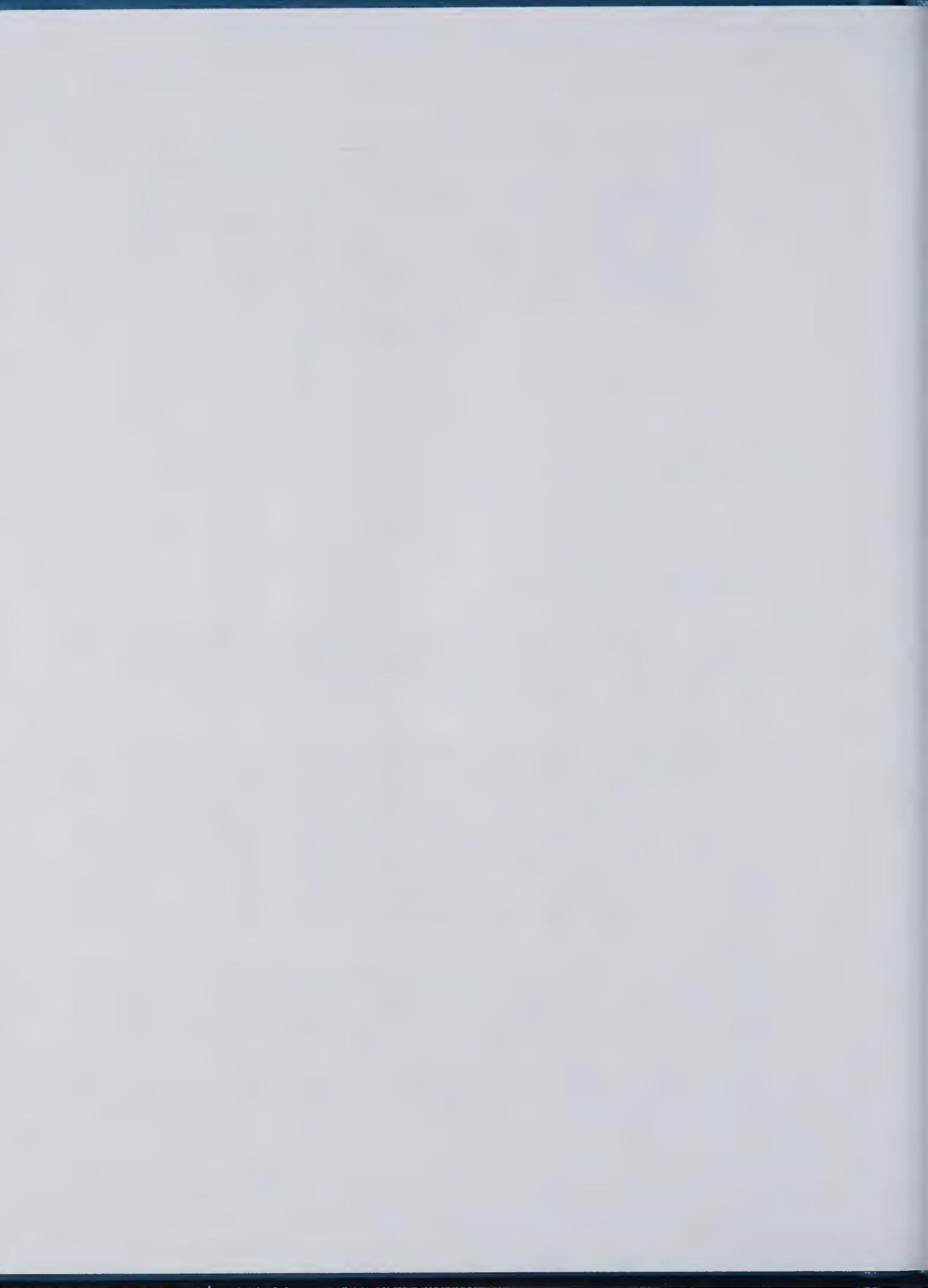
Dear Brother and Sister:

I take my pen in hand to let you know how we are a-gitting along. We are all well at present. We received your letter yesterday and was glad to hear from you and to hear that you was all well and hope when these few lines come to hand it may find you all well.

Now I want you to collect that money as soon as you can for my children is starving to death and my horses so poor that they can't hardly walk and I need it the worst way in the world. I hain't been doing anything for a long time and I can't get anything to do. Now I talk of coming back to Indiana in the Spring and go to Missouri but I don't know for sure yet. Mr. Brower has got my cow and if I don't go I want you to go down and get her. If I don't go they are going this Spring and I will let you know. If I don't go I will write and let you know and I would like to have you go down and get my cow.

Now I will let you know what the price of produce is. Hay is worth 20 dollars, corn is worth one dollar per bushel, oats is worth 70 cents per bushel, potatoes is worth 20 cents per bushel, pork is worth 10 dollars per hundred, flour is worth seven and eight dollars per hundred.

I have got on them same old patched britches that I had on when I left there. Little Henry has went barefooted all



Winter for I hadn't money enough to buy him a pair of shoes. I made me a pair of hames worth forty dollars and I had to sell them for fifteen to get something for my children to eat.

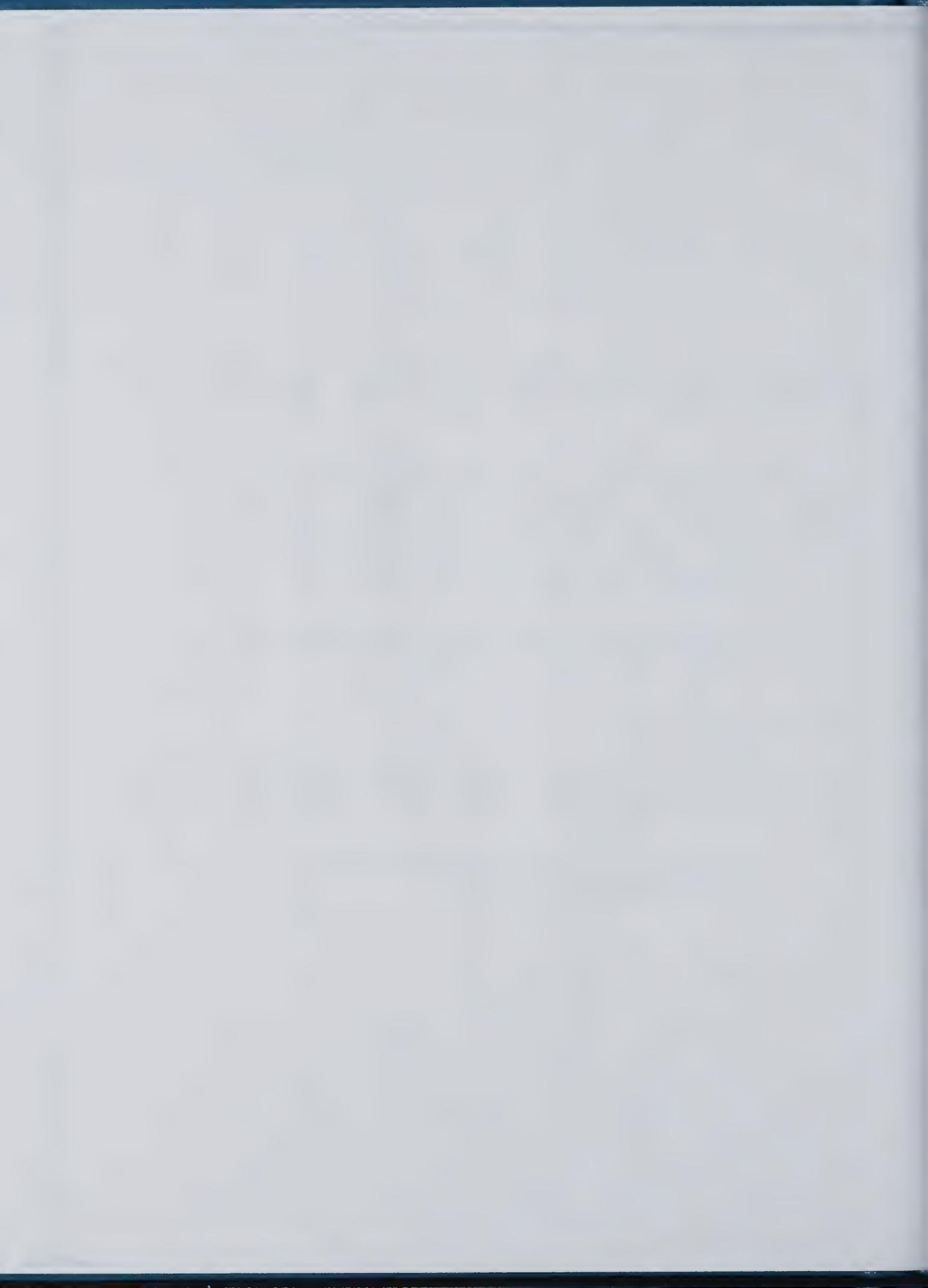
Tell Jane that I would like to see her and the little boys the best kind. Tell her that she must not think hard because I don't write to her for I only have money enough to send one letter. I was over to father's today and he give me some beans to eat and I thought that was the best things that I ever eat. Well, mother ain't no better and father has to set around the house to take care of her. Father says that he would like to see you.

Mort Milliman was here the other day and he said that he had sold his horses to live on and he don't like it at all out here.

Well, Jane, if you will let me have one part of your house I will move back there.

Well, give my best wishes to all around there and father sends his best respects to Mr. Flint. So I guess that I will close for this time, asking you to write soon and often.

This is from William and Isabella Monroe
to Henry and Harriet Milliman



October 14 (poss. 1867 - CEB)

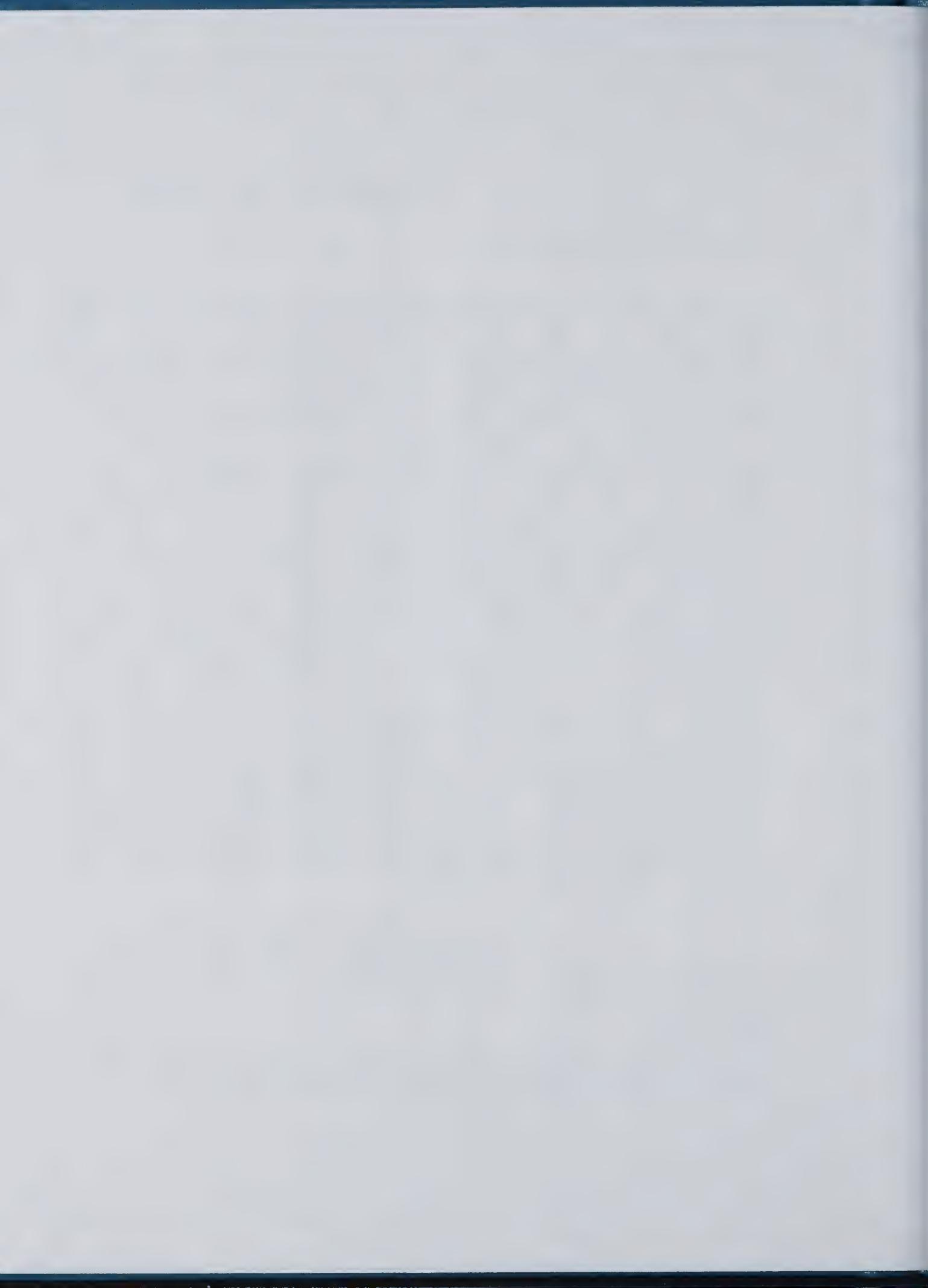
Dear Brother and Sisters:

I take my pen in hand to let you know that we are all well at present and hope when these few lines come to hand it may find you all the same. Jane, she (his wife CEB) says you had better set out and move out here and she will insure you a man for there is plenty of paddys here. I have got that note of Bile Johnson's here about the pistol -- I guess I don't want it, for I hain't got the money to spare for it. I will send it to you when you want it. I will send you a few lines to let you know how the price of land is here. I want you to be sure to come out here this Winter and I don't want you to forget it. Times is good here and money is plenty. I will let you know the price of produce. Hay is 15 dollars a ton, and potatoes is 50 cents a bushel and oats is 50 cents, pork is 18 and 20 cents a pound. Groceries is about the same as they are there. Sugar is 10 and 12 cents and flour is 6 dollars a hundred here. The street cars runs right along by the door and they is one coming along and it makes so much noise that I can't hear myself think. Jane, you mustn't get mad at what I said about the man. Johnny and Manny, if you come out here I will give you a ride on the street cars. There is lots of bear here. The men killed one about a half mile from here. I had a piece of one to eat since I have been here. There is plenty of game here. You can catch plenty of fish here. Father's folks is here today. They are all well but mother and she is gaining slowly. I received your letter last night and was glad to hear from you that old man Brower's folks are a-going to be coming out here this Fall and if you are a-coming out here you had better go down and see them. We are looking for John Thomas's folks every day. So I must bring my letter to a close. So no more at present.

This from William Monroe and Isabella
to Henry and Harriet and Jane Milliman

NOTE: (CEB)

This letter may have been written from Missouri inasmuch as a previous letter by William Monroe indicated a possible move to that State.



Sunday, Feb. 13th 1870

M M M M M M sir:

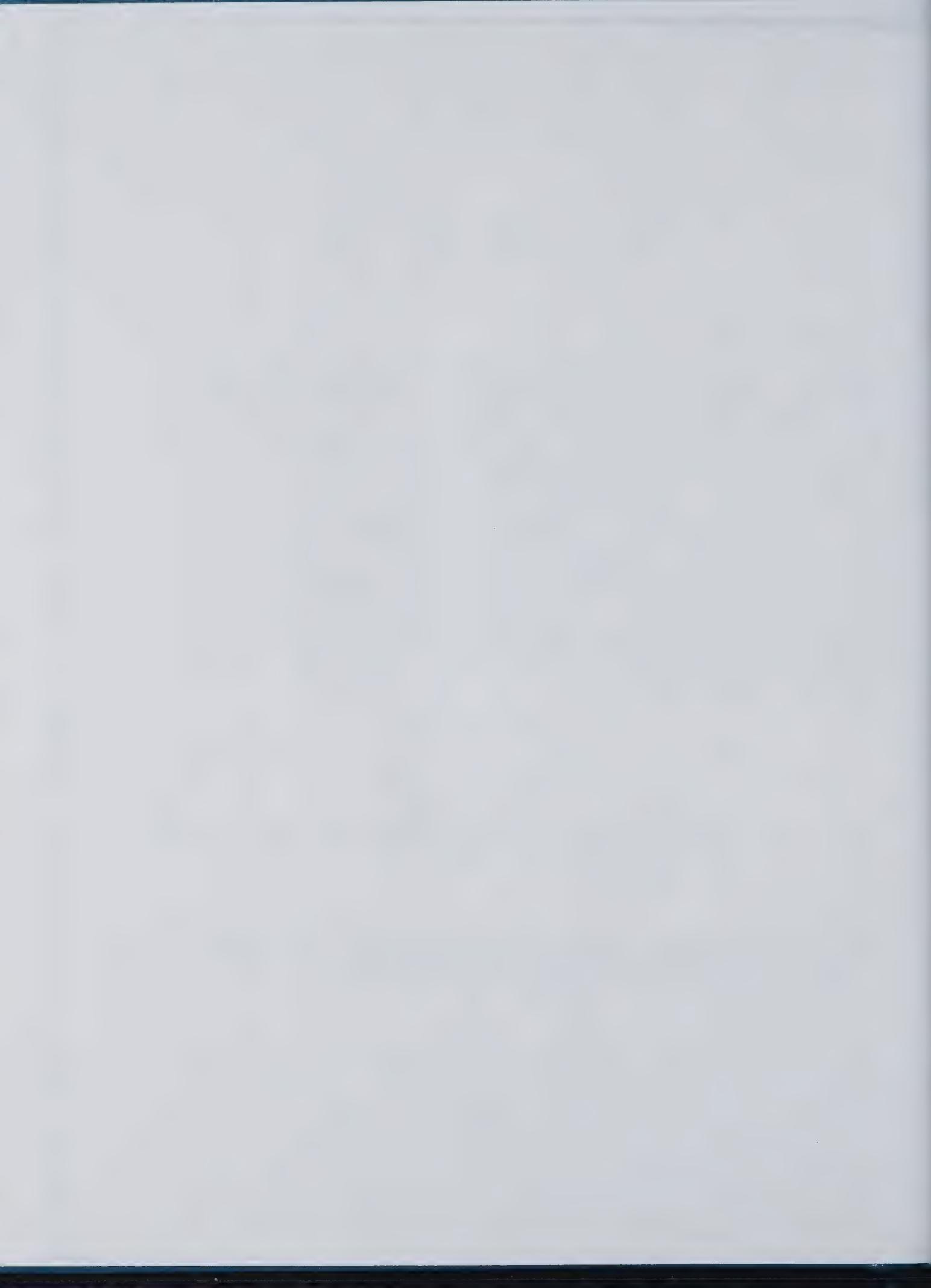
Follow the copy. I am well. You say the Cole Town folks beat the indians at their scalp dances. Well, you just come out here and see if you think aright. A large surveying party was scalped on North Platte last Summer. Smith is out on South Platte now. He is the man I am to work for. I expect to go with him next Summer. Well, I think you could do better to go to Lincoln and work on your own hook. The Winters are so mild here that you can work most all of the time. But I don't want to influence you against your will. Mr. Smith thinks it doubtful about your getting into the car shops, but I don't know anything about that. He says tools are most as cheap here as further east. That if you have tools to bring them, but not to buy anything that you can't bring in your trunk, for the freight will cost more than the difference in price. You could bring small tools in your trunk without any extra cost. I will close hoping to hear from you, or see you soon.

Your friend,

Augustus Coburn

NOTE: (CEB)

This letter unquestionably is addressed to Melvin M. Monroe, a nephew of Harriet Milliman and Jane Milliman and the salutation indicates the tendency of Augustus Coburn toward well-intentioned humor.



This letter was appended {on the same piece of paper} to
Augustus Coburn's letter dated Feb. 13th 1870)

Mr. Melvin Monroe

Dear Sir:

'Gustus is through writing and hasn't got his paper quite all wrote over and I thought that I would write a few lines to you. I am well at present and hope that these few lines will find you enjoying the same blessing. Well, Mel, 'Gustus says you are coming West. I hope you will and bring all the rest of the boys along.

Yours truly,

John Schole

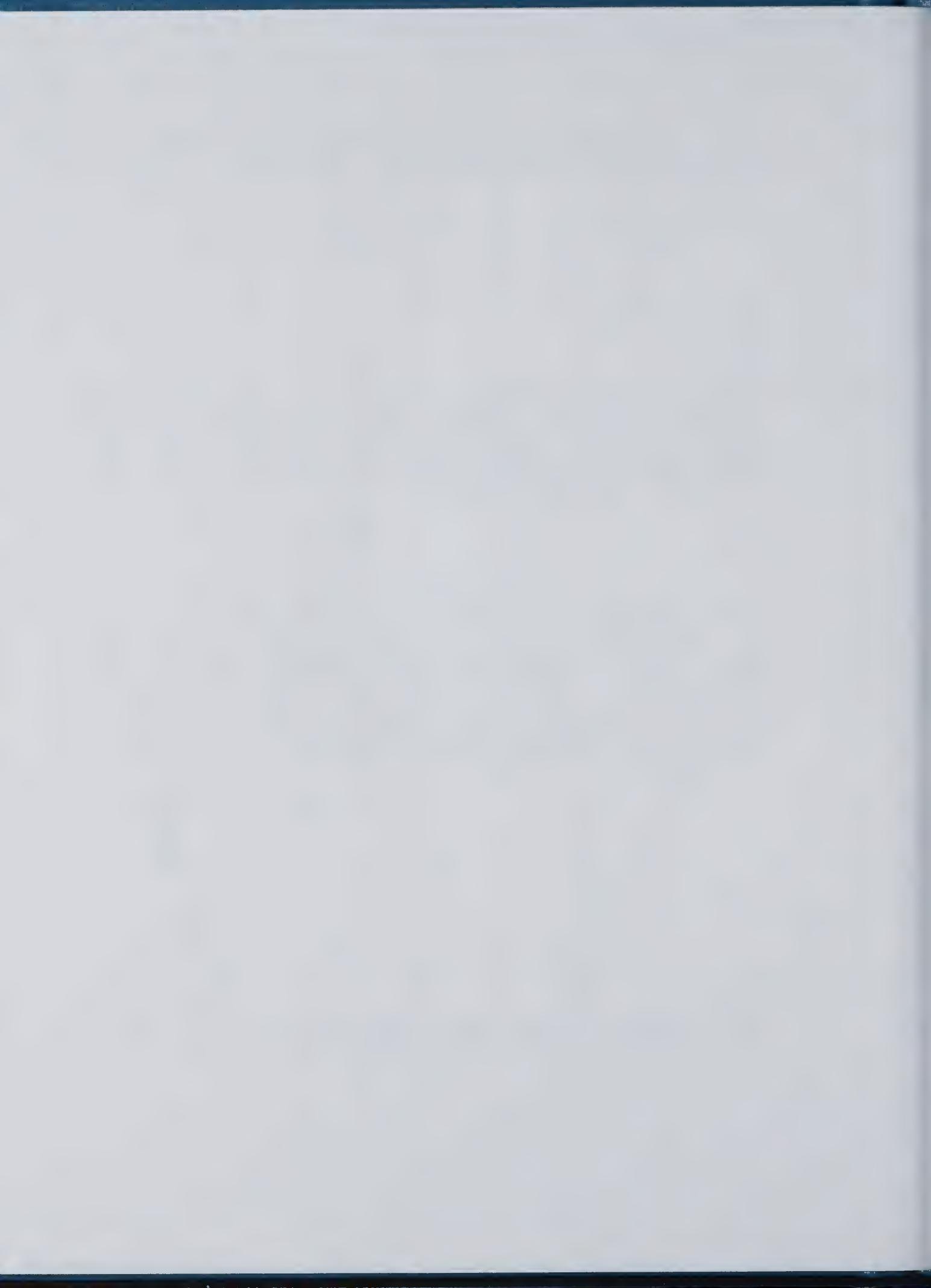
(The following note was added to the foregoing CEB)

You asked whether the work is mostly framing or joiner work. Well, if you could see the stuff they have to use you would "give it up." Most of the work, I believe, is joiner work, siding and doing off the inside. The lumber is most all pine and scantling frame. Well, I must close again. I thought I was done once but found different. Well, Mel -- who does Almeron (Benjamin CEB) go with now. &c &c &c &c

Augustus C. Coburn



(It is apparent that Mr. Coburn was something of a humorist judging from the "tail" added to his signature CEB)



July 15th 1870

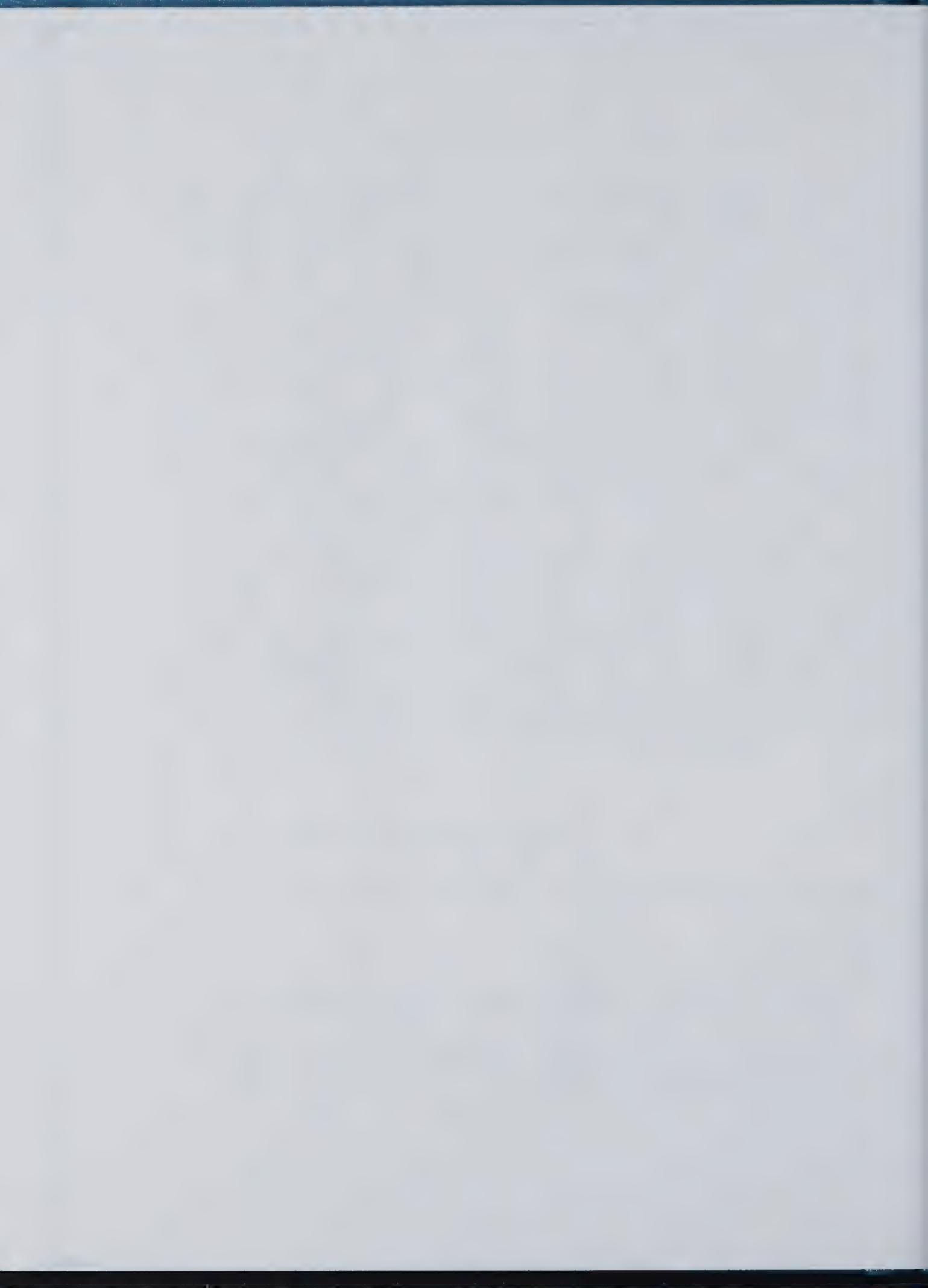
Well, Henry, as I have gave out this afternoon on account of the heat, I will write you a few lines and let you know that I am well and what I am doing. I am working for a contractor on the Burlington and Missouri R. R. building depots and engine houses and water stations. I have got a very good man to work for and I like the work very well. I went out on the road towards Fort Carney five weeks ago with a gang of men to build a station house and returned yesterday morning. That is the reason I have not written before. I can get work on this road until we reach Fort Carney, which will be two years yet, at least. But I don't know whether I will stay with them that long or not. I talk strong of going to California this Fall. Well, Henry, I am still trying to live a Christian life and always shall, although I find some very hard cases out here and don't get to meeting very often, but I find a great consolation in praying to my Savior and I hope that my Christian friends at home will remember me in their prayers. I have not seen John or Gus since March and don't know when I will see them. I get rather lonesome sometimes out here among strangers, but it don't do any good. Tell the boys, Henry, to excuse me for not writing to them for I don't get much time to write to anybody and don't stay long enough in a place to get an answer if I did write. Tell grandfather and Maria and Wills that I feel just as happy as a big sunflower that nods and bends in the breeze. Well, I must bring this letter to a close. Don't write until you hear from me again, for I am going West Monday again and don't know when I shall be back. Give my respects to all inquiring friends.

M. M. Monroe

J. Eton's Headquarters Shops
Ashland, Neb.

NOTES: (CEB)

- (1) Melvin M. Monroe was a nephew of Harriet (Monroe) Milliman and this letter apparently is addressed to her husband, Henry Milliman.
- (2) The reference to "John" and "Gus" apparently applies to John Scholes and Augustus Coburn who were also natives of the Coburn's Corner community of DeKalb County, Indiana.



Sept. 11th, 1870

Friend Henry:

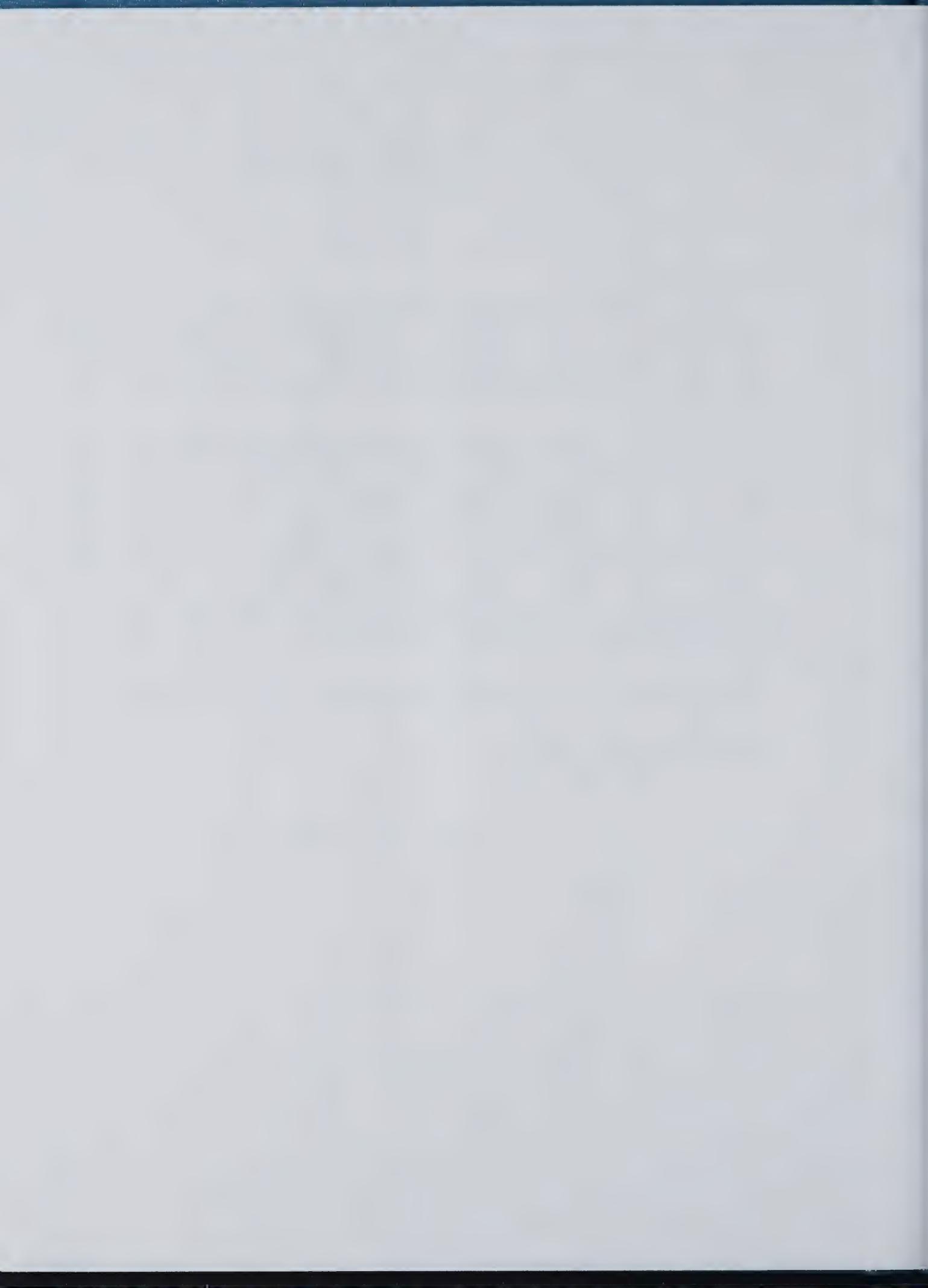
I take my pen in hand this Sabath morning to write you a few lines and let you know that I am well at present and hope this will find you the same. I suppose today finds you in church and having a good meeting. Well, I wish I were there too, instead of sitting around this old tent, but I can't be there at present and so I must be content I suppose.

Well, Tip, how is Coburntown prospering this Summer and how are you getting along with your work this Summer? Have you got your house up yet or not? We have moved since I wrote you last. We are building a depot at Waverly, half way between Ashland and Lincoln. Part of the gang is at Lincoln and the rest at Waverly. We have got about two months work here and then we're going to Council Bluffs to do about two months work. Then I think I shall come home. I don't like this country well enough to stay here long. I am getting good wages but board is high and so is clothes and I think I can make more there and be in good society, which I have not found here yet.

Well, I guess I have wrote long enough for this time and will close. Write soon.

Direct to M. M. Monroe
Lincoln, Neb.
Box 905

M. M. Monroe



You are invited to be present at the

MARRIAGE OF

Albert W. Monroe

—AND—

May E. Armacost,

AT THE

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, GALION, OHIO,

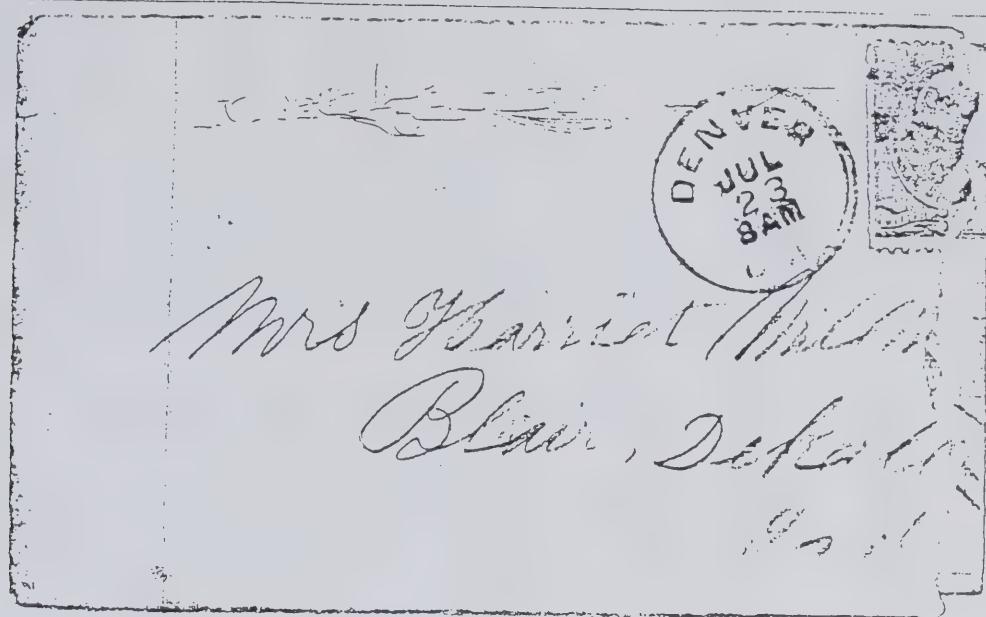
TUESDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 25, 1881.

CEREMONY AT EIGHT O'CLOCK.

NOTES: (CEB)

- (1) This notice is felt to be a typical wedding invitation in vogue during the era in which it was written.
- (2) Albert W. Monroe was the son of Orin N. and Julia A. Monroe and a nephew of Harriet Milliman and Jane Milliman.





Denver, July 22nd 1883

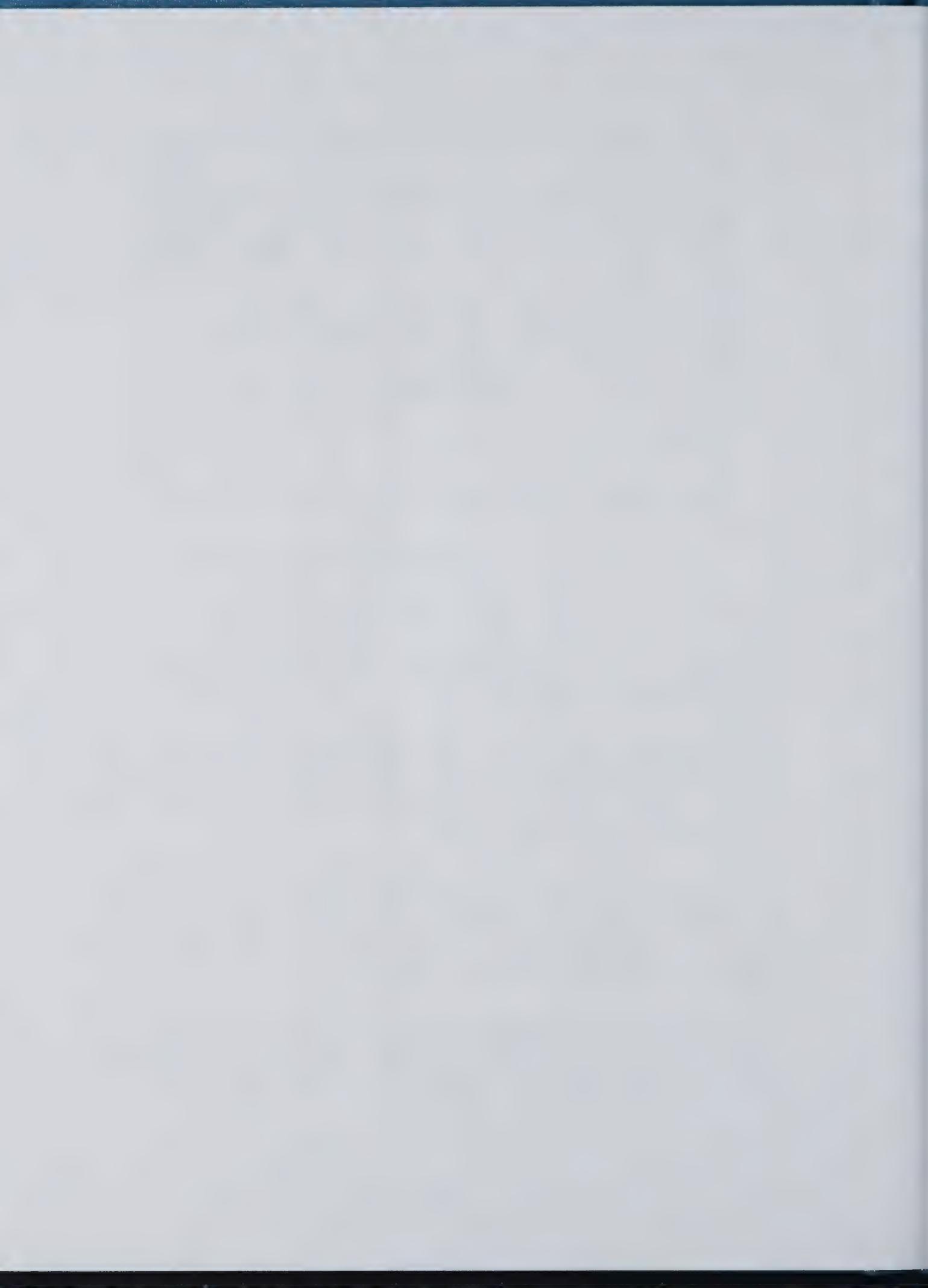
Dear Wife and all the rest of the folks:

I thought I would write a few lines again today to let you know that I am as well as common. I hope this will find you all enjoying good health.

I have already wrote three cards home telling you how I got along coming out here. I will send you a Denver paper that will give the news and describe the Grand Army encampment better than I could if I should write for half a day. So I will not write a very long letter but leave you to read more of it in the paper that I send.

Denver is a city of some forty thousand inhabitants and is quite a grand place -- at present at least. The buildings and streets are all decorated in a grand manner in honor of the G.A.R. The town is full of old soldiers and still they come by the hundreds on every train. They expect from twenty-five to thirty thousand ex-soldiers here the coming week.

I am considerably surprised as to the weather here. I supposed it would be quite cold here, but it has been as hot ever since I got here as I most ever saw it back there. That is, in the daytime. The nights are quite cool. I



guess I can find a place cool enough by going into the mountains. There are plenty of snow capped peaks in sight. I think I shall go to some of the mineral springs among the hills before many days and see whether it will do me any good or not. I expect to have to go some forty or fifty miles from here to find a place that will suit me.

Well, I don't know as there is any more news to write than what you will see in the paper that I send you.

Tell Manny and Erit if they have not moved that church at Spencerville that they had better use four double trucks under it and then they will have no trouble. And that barn at Leo they had better take both capstans.

Well, Harriet, I want you to write every few days and let me know how you are getting along. Tell Harry and Frankie to be good boys and I will try and bring them something when I come home. Tell Harry to write some too, when you write.

This will have to do for all inquiring friends at present. Tell them all to write. Direct to Denver, Colorado and if I leave here I will have my mail forwarded to wherever I go.

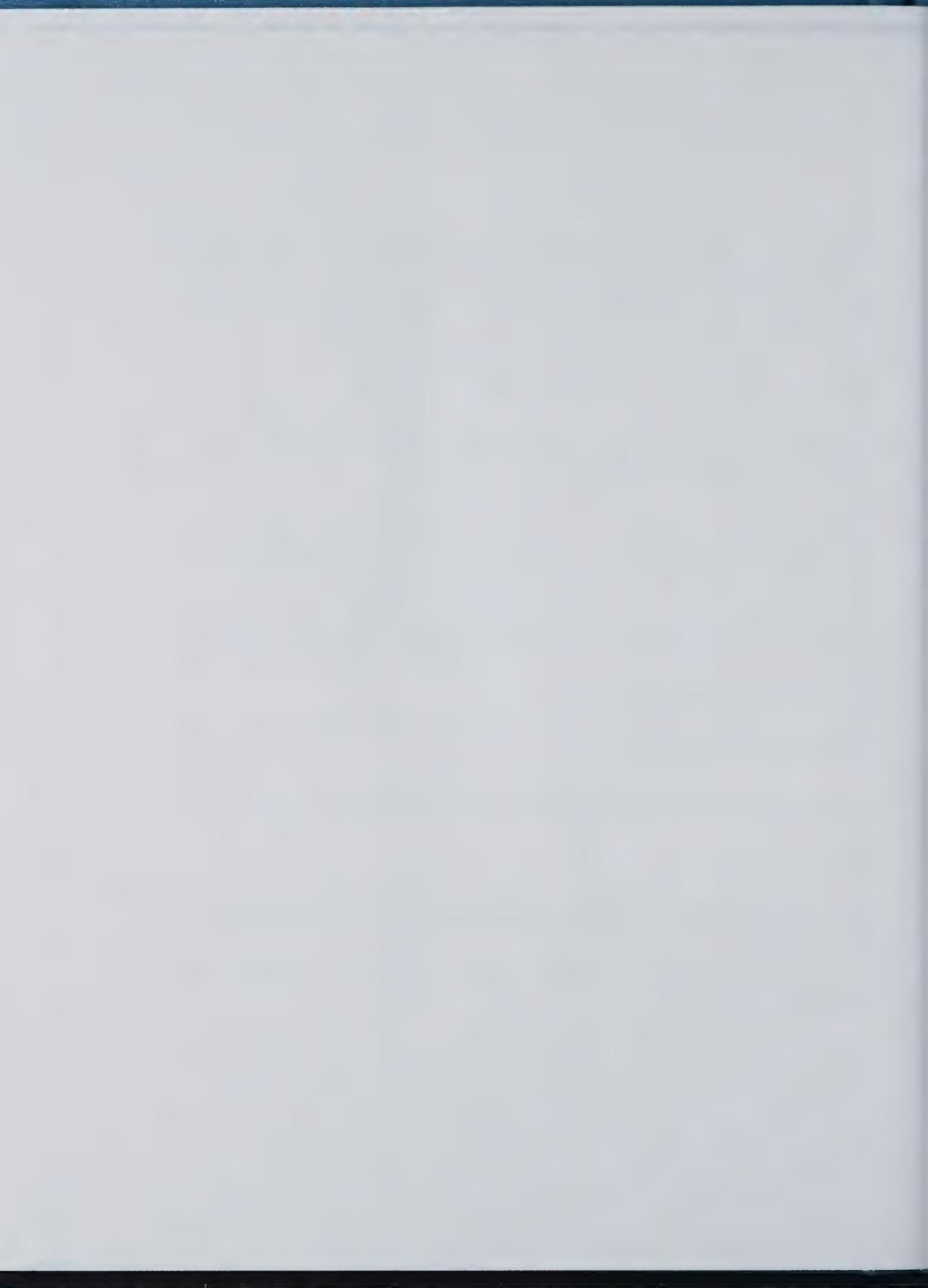
Well, goodbye for this time.

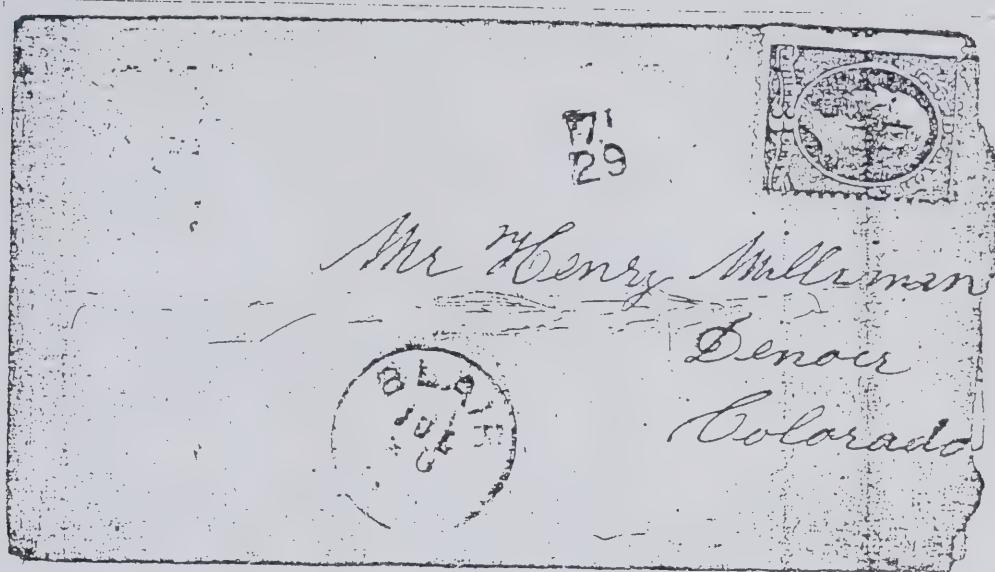
This from Tip to Harriet and the boys in particular and everybody in general.

NOTES: (CEB)

(1) "Manny" and "Erit" appear to have been employes of Henry Milliman carrying on the building moving business in his absence.

(2) "Harry" and "Frankie" were the sons of Henry and Harriet Milliman.





July 25th 1883
At Home

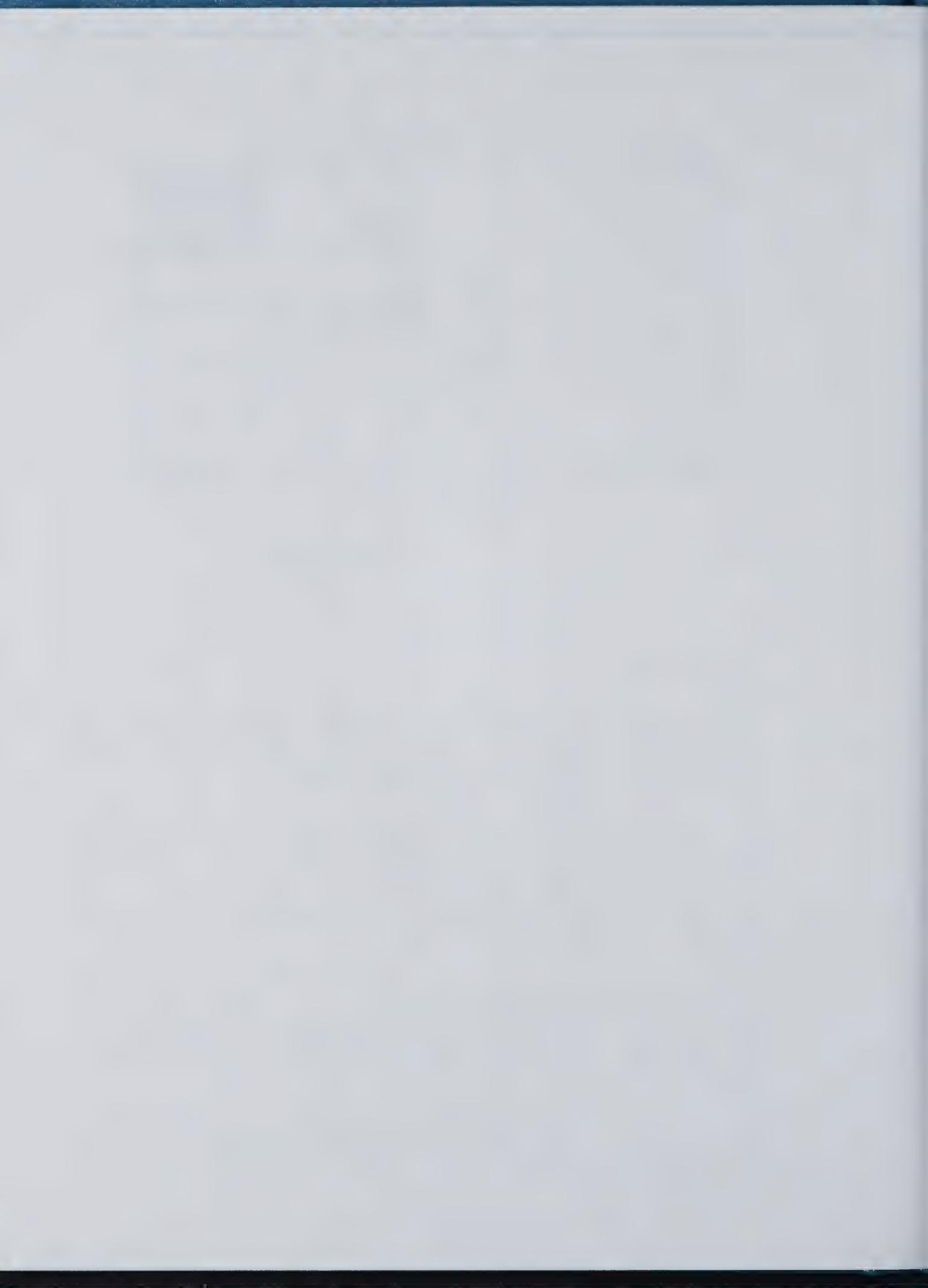
Dear Husband:

I take my pen in hand to scribble a few lines to let you know that we are all well and was glad to hear from you and know that you was not any worse. I hope the trip may prove to be a blessing of health to you and also a pleasant recreation from the toilsome cares of life.

Well, Pa, we got our hay up in very good order. We had the barn jam full and quite a stack besides. They finished on Monday after you left. They are at Butler today. They go to Leo next and then move that church at Spencerville. They got \$50 for the job and have to move it farther away. We have had a big storm here. I believe there was the most water fell in about two hours that I ever saw in that length of time.

I was over to see Countryman today. Mort went with me. He was out digging potatoes. He wouldn't come to the house to see me but said he would have the money tonight for me. Mort has bought your little wagon. Mother is here with me tonight. Mr. Hayden has sent you a splendid letter. I will send it to you.

Mr. Stevens has sent for some more money so he can forward your pension. He don't say how much he wants. Mort says not to send him any, so I have thought not to, until you write anyway.



Pa, little Frankie is so afraid I will run off from him, he will hardly go out and play any more. He says tell Pa to hurry and get well and come home. He wants to see you so bad. Harry has been a good boy and does all he can to help me, but he is so lonesome without you.

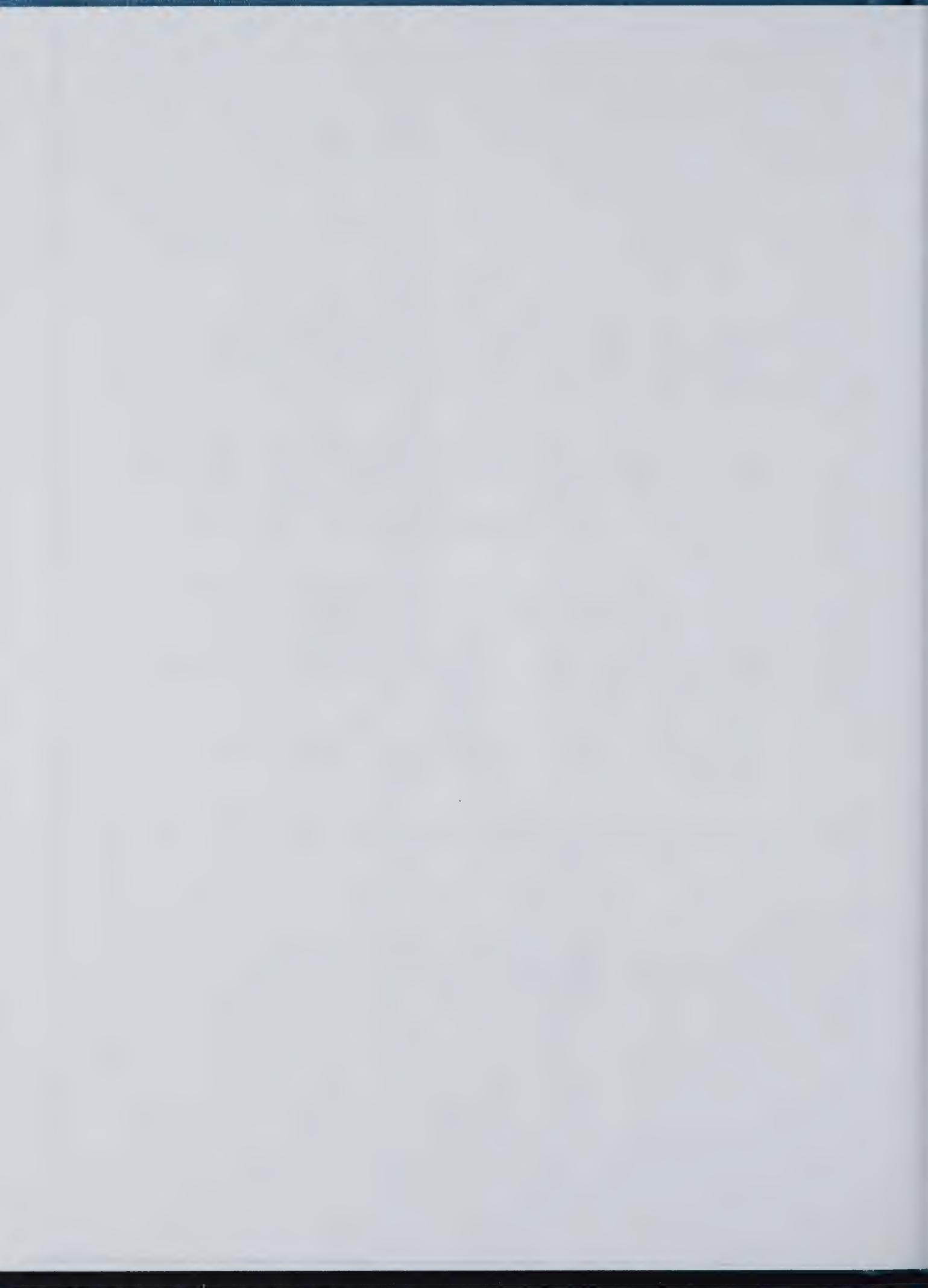
Now, Tip, do be careful and try and do all you can to get better. I feel as though I was a lone traveler on this rough journey of life, but I can do anything for your sake that is best to try and help along. I must soon close for there is no news to write. Eva has got another boy. Mother, Mort and Jane are here tonight. They all send you their best respects.

Now I will leave you for tonight. It is after 11 o'clock and the rest are in bed asleep while I am writing to you. If you get any worse do come home and, if it does you good, stay as long as you can. I leave you in the care of an all-wise Being that rules and over-rides all things. Hoping for the best at least. Write to us often, for we are many miles apart. Goodbye from us all.

Hat, Harry and Franke to Tip.

NOTE: (CEB)

"Eva" refers to Phoebe Evangelene Coburn, dau. of Russell G. Coburn and Mary Milliman, who married Albert C. Monroe, a nephew of Harriet (Monroe) Milliman and Jane (Monroe) Milliman.



Denver, July 29th, 1883

Dear Wife and family and all the rest of the folks:

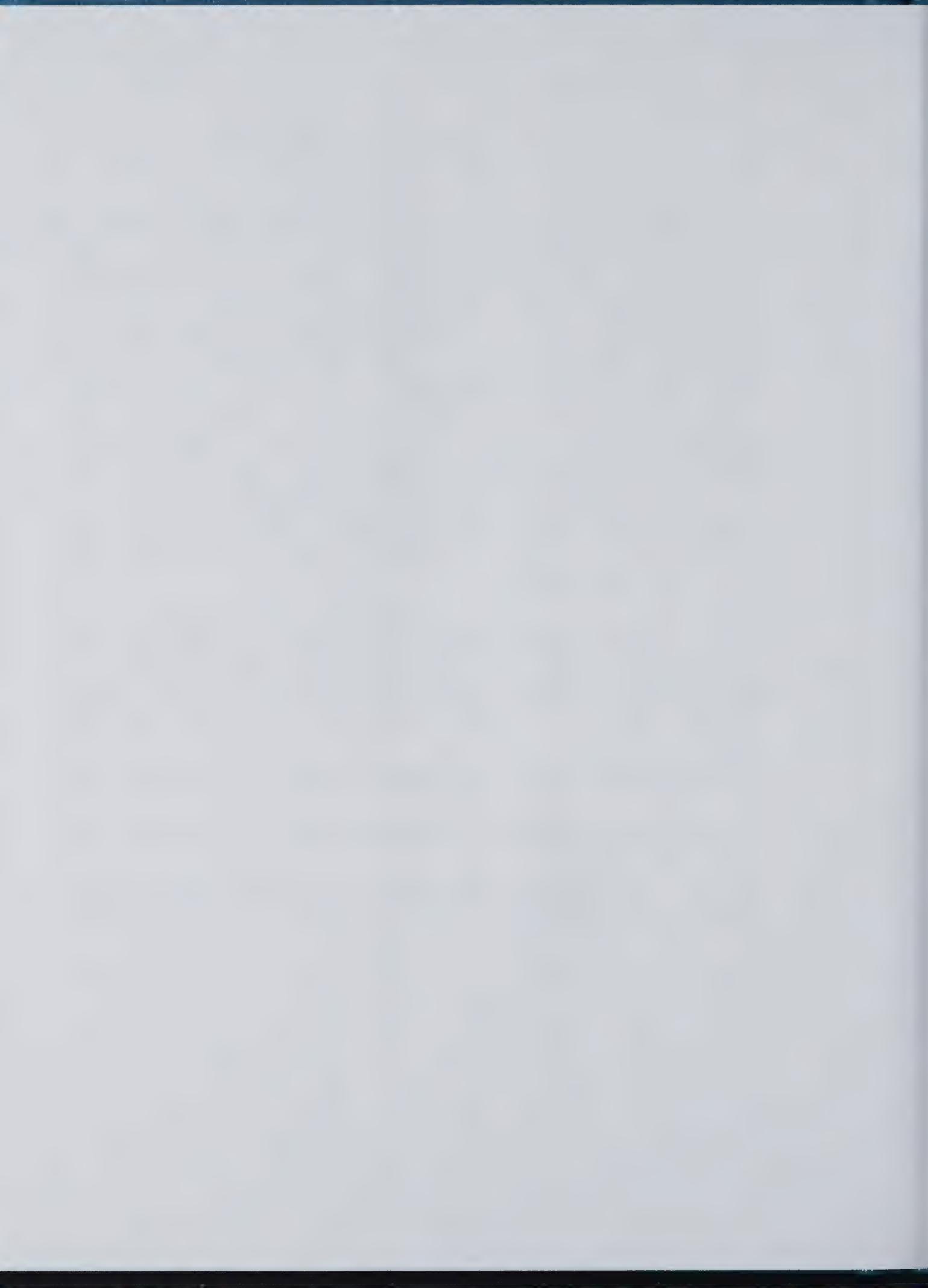
I thought I would try and write a few more lines today to let you know how I am getting along. Well, I don't see as it is having much effect on me one way or the other as yet. If I don't get worse I shall stay till I am satisfied whether it will do me any good or not. Well, you will see by this that I am in Denver again. I shall go back to Manatou or to Idaho Springs in a few days and stay most of the time while I am in this country, so I can try the mineral springs to see whether they will do me any good or not. Well, I hardly know what to think of this country. So far, I have not seen anything that strikes me very favorably, unless it is the climate. I think that is bragged on more than it deserves. They cannot raise anything here without irrigation and, only now and then along some of the streams, at that. One thing is certain -- it will never be what you could call an agricultural State. They make their money here by mining, stock raising, and fleecing people that come to this country to see the sights or in search of health. I think they make more in the latter way than any other.

Well, Harriet, I don't know as I can think of much more to write. I want you to write often and let me know how you are all getting along. Write all the news you can think of. Tell the rest of the folks to write. It is very lonesome here without having anyone to associate with that I know. If I get plenty of letters it will help to keep away the blues.

Well, I guess I will close by wishing you all good health and enjoyments. So -- goodbye.

This from H. Milliman to his wife and boys and all the rest of inquiring friends.

Oh yes, I was up on Pike's Peak one day last week. I send you some flowers that grow near the top, where it snows most every day of the year.



Jan. 26th, 1884

Dear Father:

I take my pen in hand to let you know that we are all well and hope that this will find you the same. I am doing lots of problems in my arithmetic. I think my dollar that you left me was awful nice. Frank give me ten cents and Mom give me an autograph album for my birthday. Frank said that I should tell you that Old Red had a little calf.

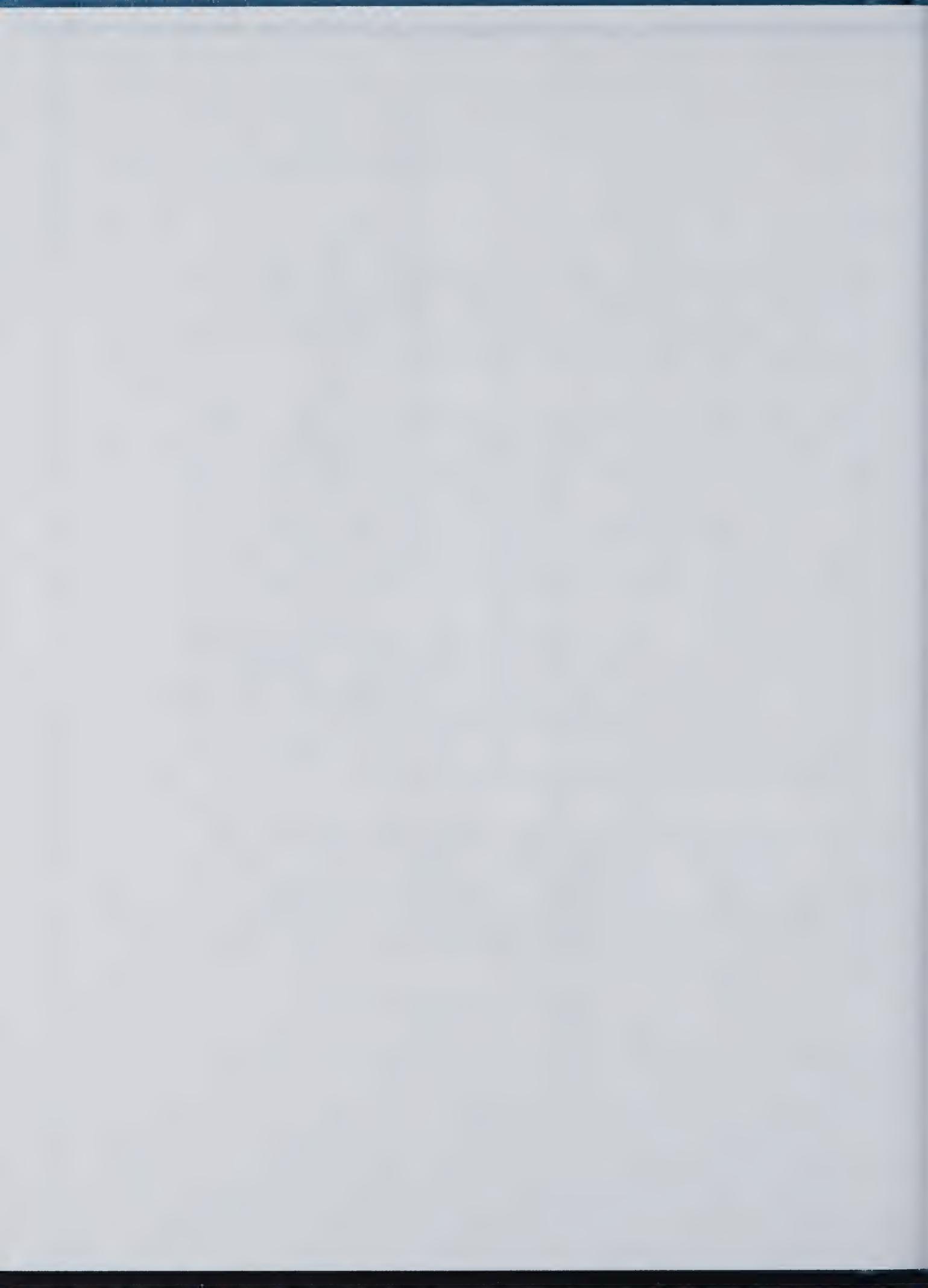
We are getting along nice in our books to school. I hope that you will have a good time and it will help you. Evans said that he wished you would write a description of your trip down there, or of some of the springs or mountains, and send it up in a letter so it could be read down to the school house some night. I would like to have you here to help me in my arithmetic. Frank has been a good boy. I expect that darky blacks your boots till they shine like glass. Johnny helps me do the chores. I have been to school every day and have not been tardy once this Winter. Frank has read his book through and has started it again.

Have you killed anything with your gun yet, or hain't there anything to kill? I have a dialogue with Willie for tonight and a single piece besides. I would like to see you. I wish that you was here to go a-hunting with me and kill some rabbits. We do catch a rabbit pretty near every day down to the school house. We have Evan's dog and then we run him under the porch and catch him. We do have lots of fun hunting them to school at noon. Evans helps us catch them. If I make any mistakes correct them for me.

Manny has been hauling wood this week. Frank has been feeding the chickens and has got some snow in his boot. Frankie said he wished you would fetch the darkie home for him to play with. There was a dance down to Uncle Will's Wednesday night. There is a literary here tonight. The boys made a stage with hinges so that they could double it all up and carry it right outdoors and set it right up. I have wrote all I can think of and will quit for another time.

From Harry to dear Father

Write as soon as you get this. Truly yours



(The following from Harriet was added to the foregoing letter. CEB)

Jan. 28th 1884

Dear Pa:

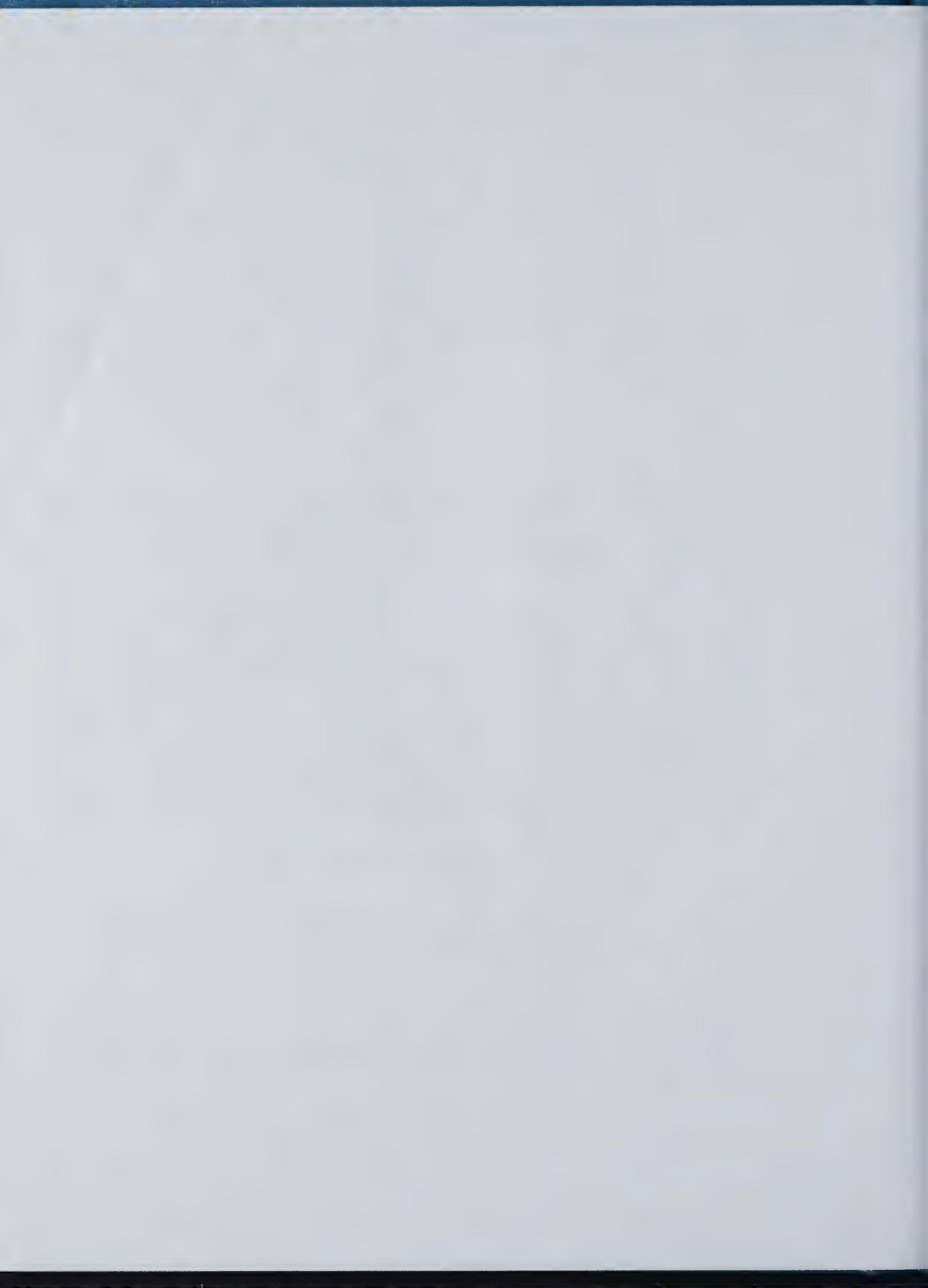
This is Monday morning. I am at the breakfast table. We received your letter Thursday. Was glad to hear that you was feeling as well as you are. You thought you was having it easy. I hope you are but don't trust strangers too far. They may prove false. Yet I hope not, to you anyway.

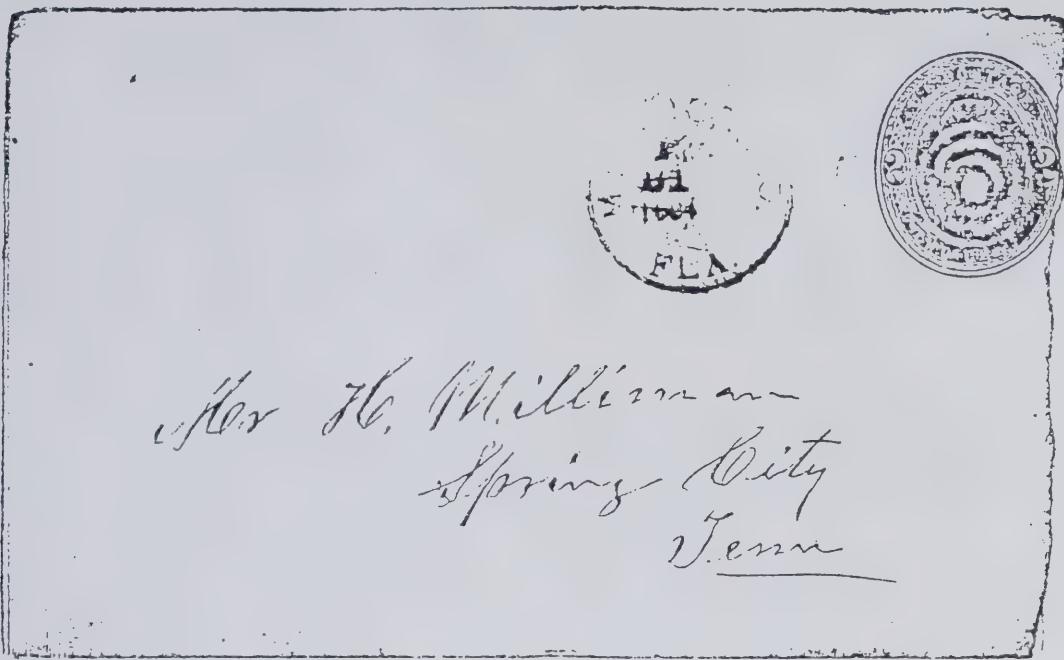
We will send the apples as soon as the weather will do to send them. It has been four degrees colder here, since you left home, than it was ever known here before. We are all well and get along well but are very lonesome. Frankie says will that little darkey hunt, Pa? He is learning well in his book. Harry is getting along very well, too. The folks are generally well around here. Your piece is not published yet, but will be this week, the News stated. It is a little warmer this morning, and it is snowing for all that's out. John has helped Harry do the chores and he does all he can for us. I must close as this sheet is full. Write often, for I can't wait to hear from you hardly.

So goodbye, Hat to Tip

NOTE: (CEB)

"John" is believed to refer to John Henry, son of Warren and Jane Milliman.





Monticello, Fla.
Jan. 29, 1884

Mr. H. Milliman
Spring City, Tenn.

The springs are about forty or fifty miles from Monticello, reached only by private conveyance. There is a few delapidated log houses and one in good repair, free to anyone who has a mind to occupy. During Summer it is visited from surrounding counties, with tents and other appliances, and often gay times are had. Its only drawback is its isolation from good transportation. It is six miles from the county town or courthouse of Taylor Co. Its remedial properties are just suited to your case. You would not drink of the water a week before you could eat brick-bats and digest them. After having had three dysenteric spells in one Summer and reduced to a skeleton, I visited the spring. In less than a week I ate fresh meats of any kind, green corn, and, in fact, any and everything I wanted and got fat. As for rhumatism, this continent does not have such remedial waters. Had I the time and space would give you instances of the most remarkable cures. One from our town, J. C. Barlow, was brought so low that he was almost on starvation and racked with pains of Hades. In two weeks he was sound and well.



By taking a map, you can see which would be the most direct route to Madison, in Madison Co., or Monticello, Jefferson Co. From either place you can get transportation to springs.

The nearest resident to spring is 4-1/2 miles.

You could get a smart negro boy to go with you and wait on and cook for you. The people about the spring, when they find you there, will bring chickens, butter, eggs, game, etc.

The spring is 10 or 15 miles from Gulf coast. The creek, into which it empties, enters into the Fensholloway River and the river into the Gulf, forming Fensholloway Bay.

Game and fish in abundance.

Will cheerfully give you any information I can.

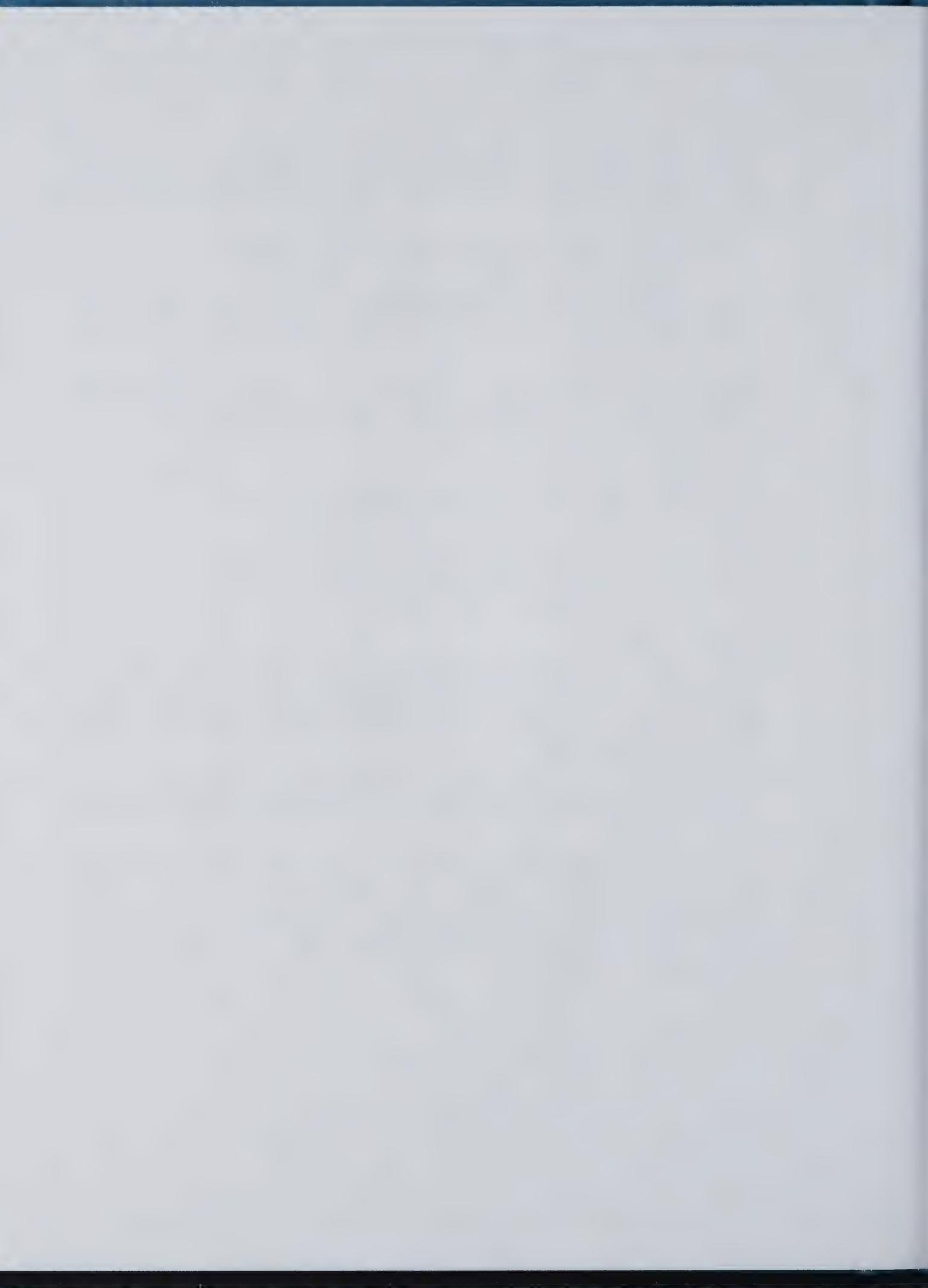
C. A. Bradley

NOTES: (CEB)

(1) Spring City is northeast of Chattanooga on the Tennessee River. Henry was evidently trying to improve his health there. This is in the general area where he served most of his enlistment in the Civil War and probably learned of the springs then.

(2) It would be interesting to know how he learned of C. A. Bradley in Monticello, Fla. If he was a native Floridian during the War, he would have been on the other side.

(3) The springs referred to by Mr. Bradley are undoubtedly in, or near, the present town of Hampton Springs, Fla. This is southeast of Tallahassee (near Perry) and on (or near) the Fen holloway River and, as the letter says, 15 or 20 miles from the Gulf. From a current map, it would appear that this area is still not heavily populated (i.e. not many towns).



Postage paid within 10 days to be received

SPENCERVILLE,
DEKALB CO.
FEB 4 1884



Henry Milliman Esq
Rhea Springs
Tenn.
Bishop

Spencerville, Ind Feb. 2, 1884

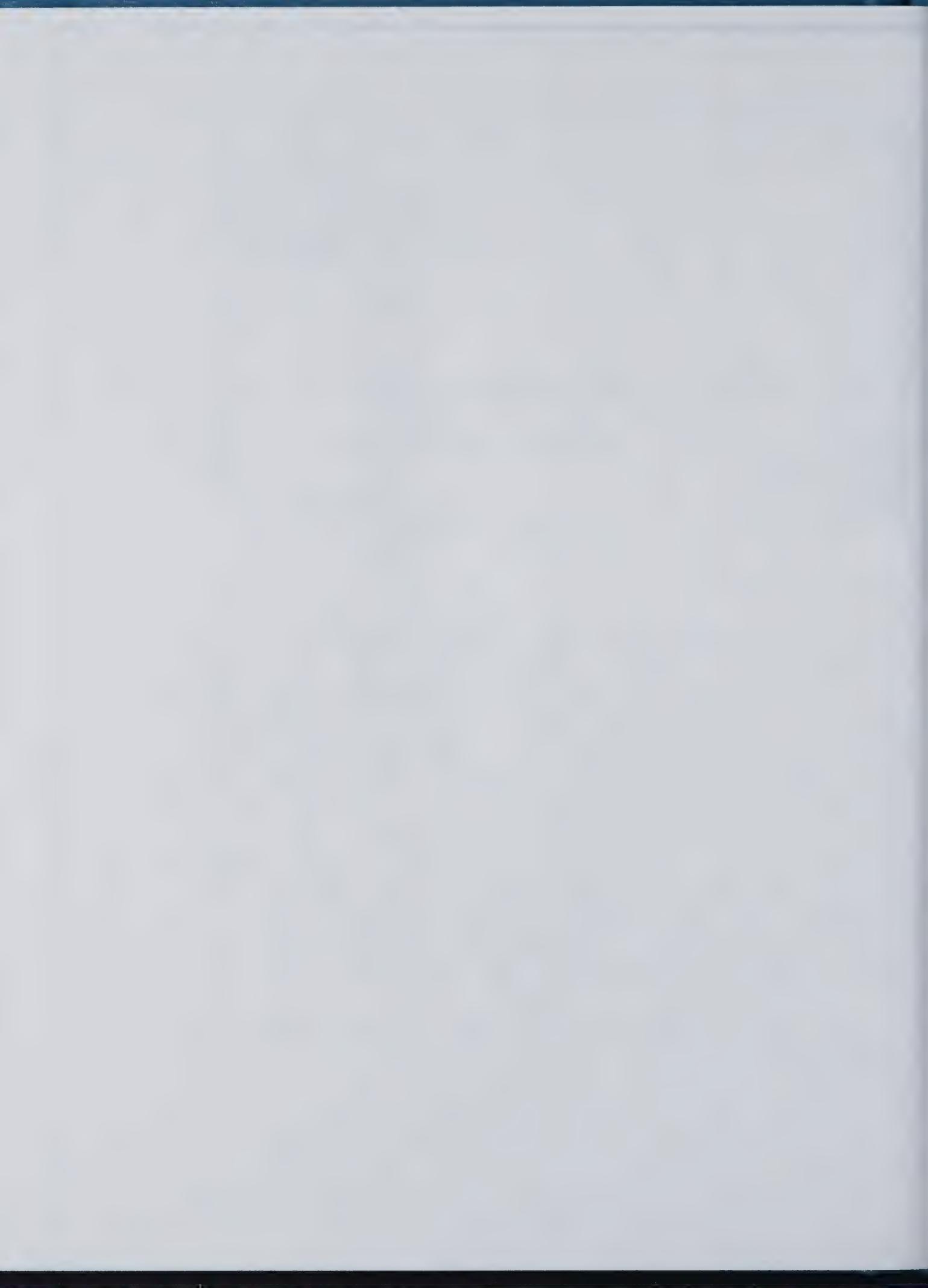
Friend Milliman:

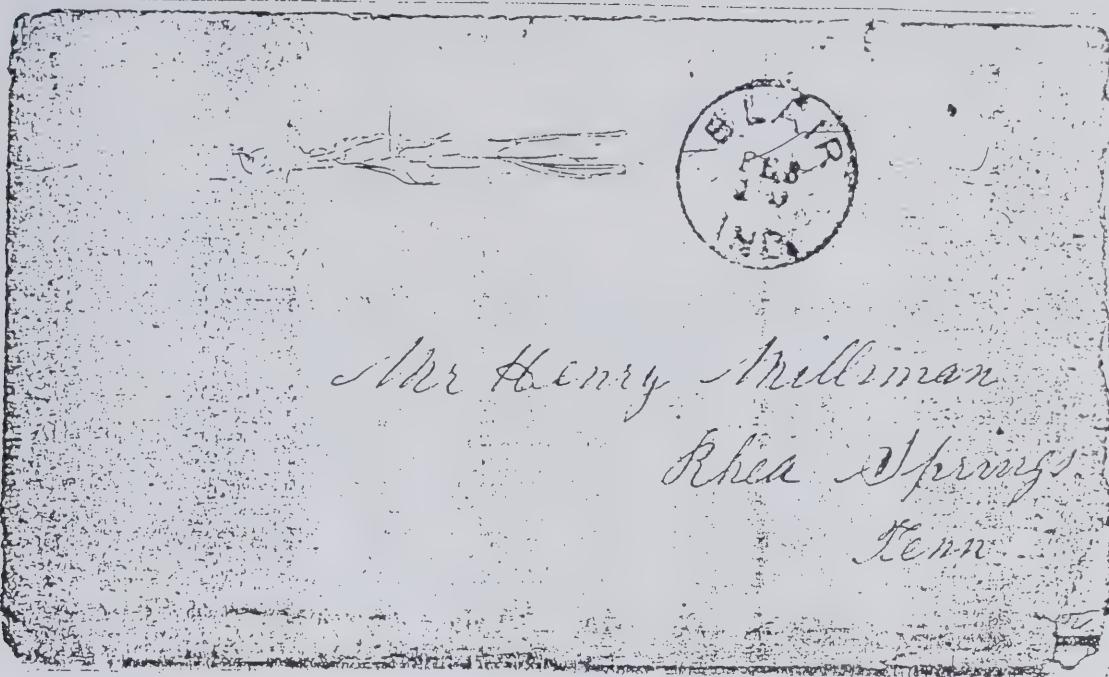
Your letter was received in due time and I was very glad to hear from you and also much pleased to learn that you are feeling better. My health has been very poor since you left. In fact I am hardly able to be about. Mrs. James Abel was over today and told me she came for the doctor for Jim. He has been quite bad for over a week and last Wednesday was not able to get out of bed. I told her about your letter and advised her to have Jim go to you as soon as he is able to travel. As for myself, if you continue to improve and I don't feel any better, I will join you week after next, or as soon as I hear from you. So you see I shall look anxiously for an answer to this. There is no news of interest to write you that I know of. Keaton's lecture at St. Joe was well attended and was a marked success. The Post made over thirty dollars clear of all expenses. He will lecture here in one week from next Tuesday in the Lutheran Church and we expect a big crowd, if the weather is good. We have had quite severe weather since you left until the last few days when it began to thaw. Now our sleighing is all gone and weather quite warm.

I hope your health is still improving and I shall look eagerly forward to the time when I can expect an answer to this.

Yours in F. L. & C.

Y. A. Bishop





Blair, Ind.
Feb. 15, 1884

Well, Uncle Henry. I take my pen to write you a few lines to let you know that I am well and hope this will find you the same. I am a-sawing wood for Jerome today. We have not done any moving since you went away for it has been such bad weather. We had set two days to go to Maysville but it has rained both times. I got that money from Ben Nelson and I got 15 dollars from Barney. I hain't got none from Robertson yet. I seen him the other day and he said he didn't know when he would have it. You wanted to know if I had got the lumber home yet from the mill. I had not. The mill has not run only about half of the time since you went away. There is a lot of work for this Summer. I was a-talking with Jerome and he wanted to know if you would sell half of the tools. I told him I did not know. I told him to write and find out, so he said he would write with me. You spoke about having some clover seeds sowed. If you want some sowed I will get some and sow it when it is time. Tell all the news.

M. F. Milliman

NOTE: (CEB)

See the following letter written by J. C. (Jerome) Benjamin which accompanied this letter written by M. F. (Marion) Milliman.



Blair, Ind.
Feb. 15th, 1884

Uncle Henry. Dear Sir:

As I have been talking some with Pete about buying your tools I will write you as we was talking and I might as well commence here as any place. We was talking in this way. To buy, that is for me, one half of tools, old wagon, harness and horse one half right through and Pete the other of horse, harness and wagon. Then I give you a note payable in whatever time you thought the tools would pay for themselves and pay or turn accounts over to you over and above our expenses until they were paid for and you secure yourself by a mortgage on tools, with the understanding I was to pay as fast as I had anything left besides my expenses, and my living of course. Now, Uncle Tip, if you want to sell and will sell in this way, send an answer either to Marion or me. We have talked this over and discussed between ourselves till we are satisfied we can make things satisfactory between ourselves. I will close by asking a definite answer as I have a chance of hiring out to make cheese north of Auburn and must look at it at once.

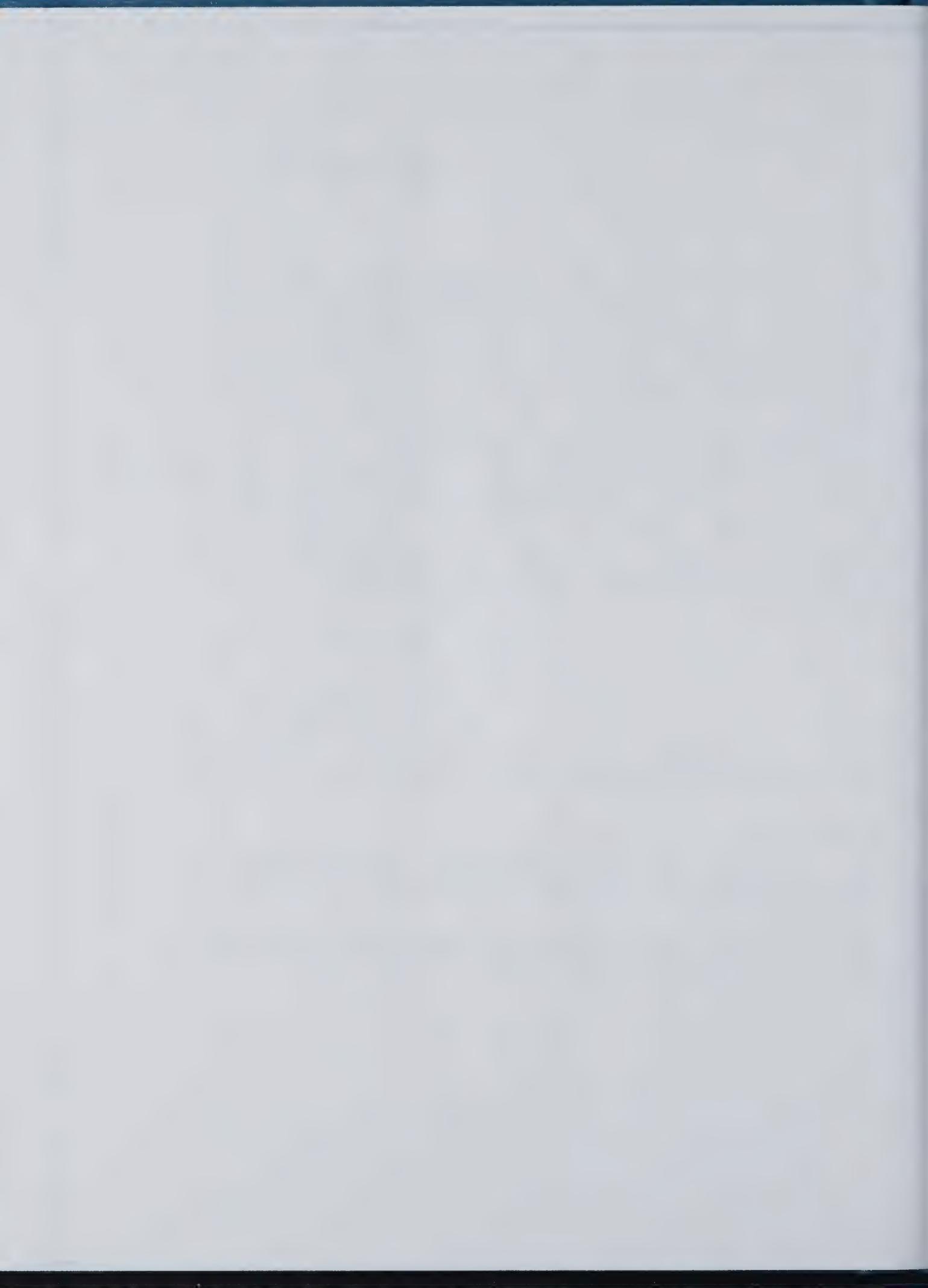
Yours with respect,

J. C. Benjamin

NOTES: (CEB)

(1) It should be noted that Marion (Milliman) also was commonly called "Pete" although the logic for this nickname is not apparent.

(2) Jerome C. Benjamin was the husband of Electa Ann (Kit) Abel, the daughter of George D. Abel and Sally Ann Milliman, a sister of Henry Milliman.



Feb. 17th 1884

Dear Father:

I take my pen in hand to let you know that we are all well and hope that this will find you the same. I am still going to school and learning as fast as I can. I am doing fine in arithmetic. It has been raining awful hard here today and it has been a very lonesome day here to home. We was out to Hicksville yesterday. You ought to been here last night to go to the literary. We had a good time. They charged five cents. They had nothing but speaking and didn't have no recess, then there wasn't half of the pieces spoke. They charged because the boys got some lumber and made a good stage, and they wanted pay for it. John read your letters to the literary last night and they all wanted to hear them. There hain't only three more weeks of school. I wish that you was here to go hunting with me and kill rabbits for us to eat. Rile's folks are going home Tuesday. It is lonesome while you are gone. I would like to see you awful well. They hain't plowed any since you been gone.

I was up so late last night I am getting tired and sleepy and this is all I can think of. Write as soon as you get this.

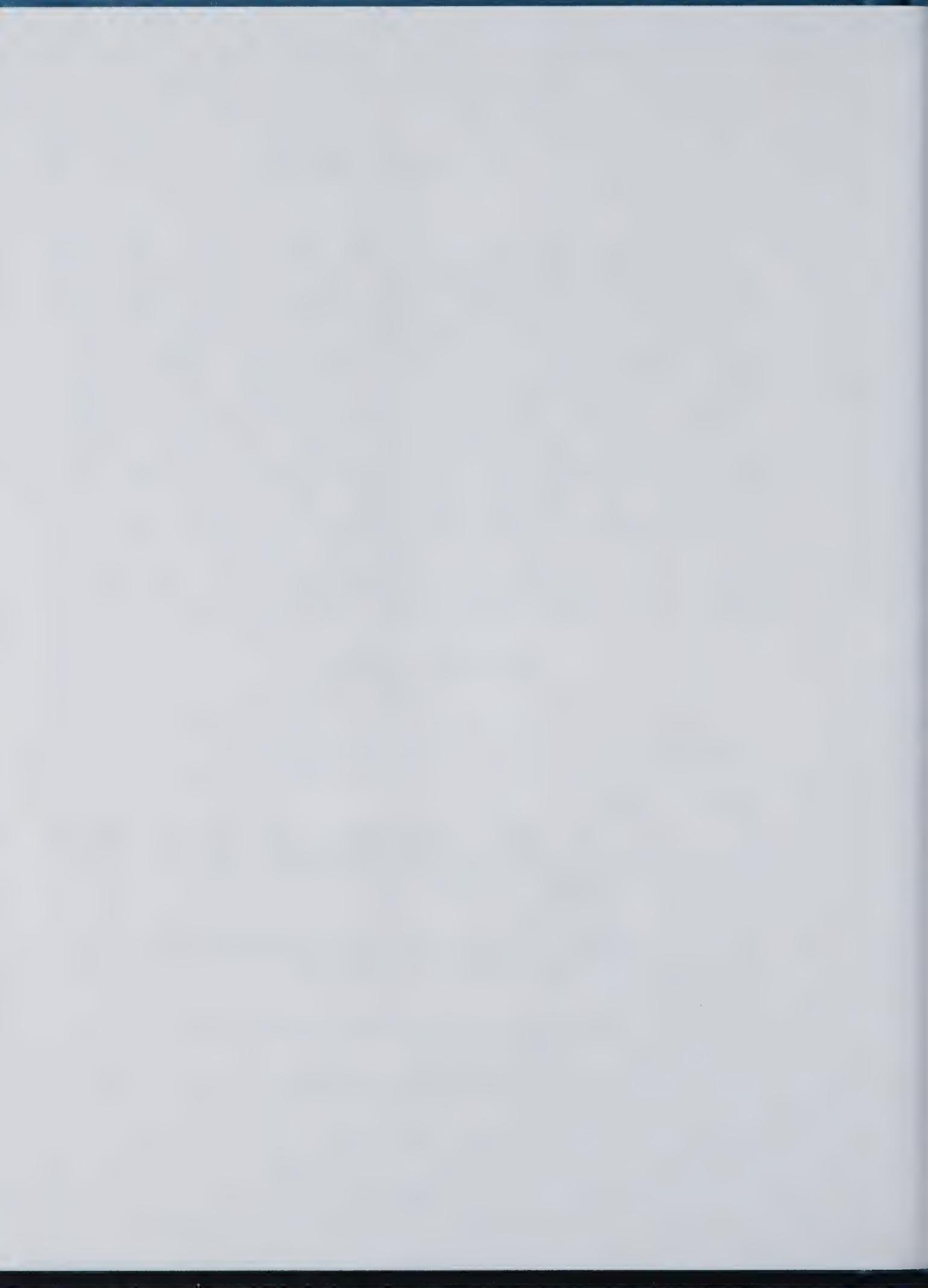
From Harry to Father.
So goodbye for this time.

NOTES: (CEB)

(1) "Rile" is thought possibly to refer to Riley Rickett and wife Asinith Monroe who was a daughter of William Monroe and Rachel Knight. This William Monroe may have been a brother of Younglove Monroe.

(2) The last paragraph in Harry's letter displays an obvious change in handwriting with erratic penmanship and some ink smears, an apparent indication of Harry's weary condition.

(3) The following note is added to Harry's letter by his mother but with no salutation.



Harry had a part in two dialogues. We got a letter from Orin. His health is very poor. The rest are all well. Rile's starts home Monday or Tuesday for sure. Mr. Baker has been here all day. Frankie says tell Pa he is going to bed and you must hurry and come home so he can see you. I have got me a new washer. It cost me 50 cts. Let me know whether you got the apples or not. Wallace is trying to buy Mrs. Richmond's land. I will send you one of Jim Abel's pension papers that came here for you. I must close. Write often. Jane and the boys send their best respects to you. This letter is like my mind -- it's here and there and everywhere. Goodbye and write.

From H. to H. Milliman

NOTE: (CEB)

"Wallace" is taken to refer to Wallace E. Abel, the son of George D. Abel and Sally Ann Milliman. Wallace's family resided near Newville on a farm adjoining the Richmond property which he is known to have later acquired.



Feb. 17th, 1884

Ever Remembered Husband:

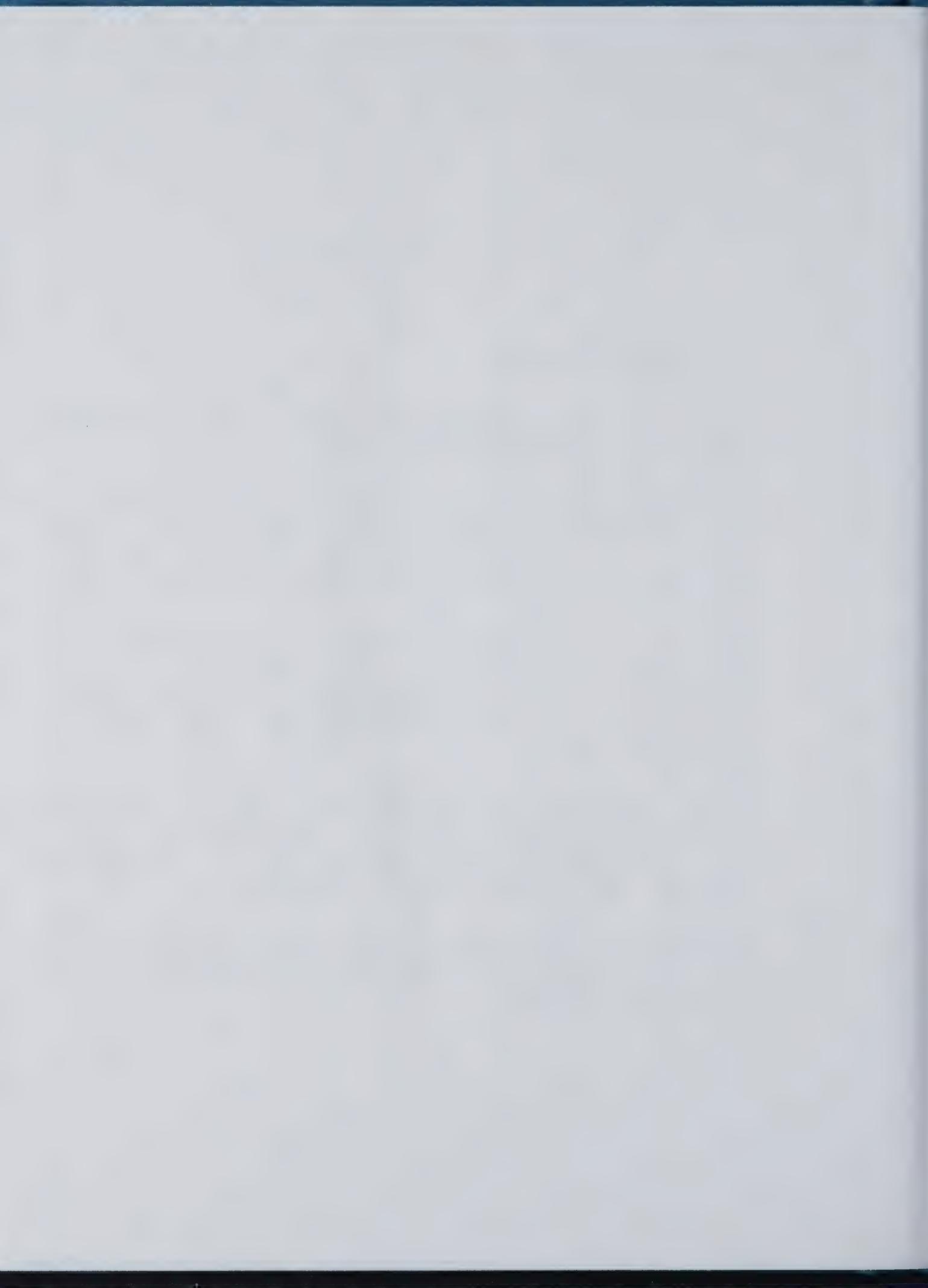
If it was not for the love and respect I have for you this evening would not find me writing to you in answer to the letter that I received dated Feb. 8th.

I was glad to hear that you was feeling better again. I hope that you will continue to feel so until your health will be entirely restored. You don't know how happy I would be. It has always seemed to me there would be some alternative yet for you. I will hope for the best and leave the rest with Him who reigns above, trusting He will over-rule all things for good.

Well, Pa, I suppose you think the boys are plowing, but I guess they would have to send to Bryan for a point first, for there is none here that will go through such frozen ground as we have here. There was snow drifted here higher than my head all along the townline road. Teams could not pass without having to shovel the snow away. They are not gone yet.

When I last wrote it was a perfect glare of ice. There were quite a number of people got badly hurt. Old Mr. Sours fell and hurt his ankle very badly. It only lasted 4 or 5 days, then it got colder and snowed again. Today it is raining and the ground is a little soft for the first to amount to anything. What the weather will be tomorrow I can't tell.

The boys will go to moving just as soon as possible, and plowing too. The lumber was not sawed so they could haul it. Manny says tell you he will get everything tended to as fast as he can. Don't worry about anything for we will do the very best we can.



i was at Hicksville yesterday for the first time since you left. Mr. Edgerton paid your taxes. The measles are still very bad but they don't have them very hard this year. The lung fever is quite bad around here now. Clyde Hart has got it very bad. There is great suffering all over, most with high water. I am afraid it has visited your place.

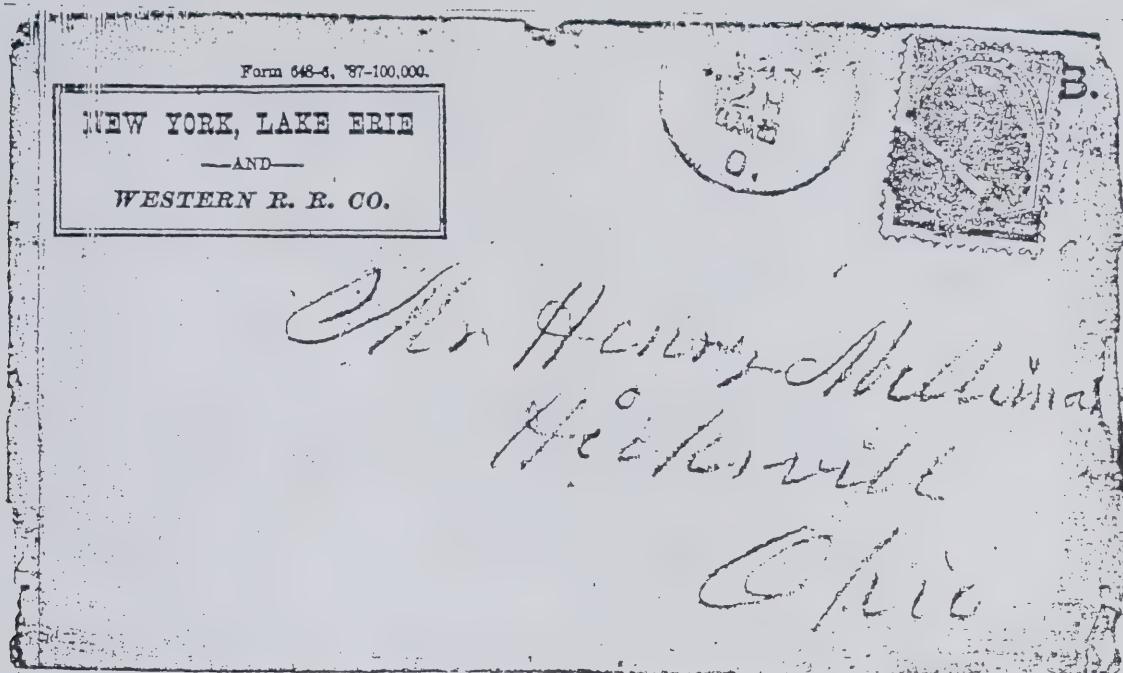
I think of you day and night. John read your piece in the papers last night to the literary. They are most all taking part in them now. They are quite interesting, they say.

NOTES: (CEB)

(1) The rest of this letter is missing but it is obvious that it was written by Harriet Milliman to husband Henry.

(2) It has been reported that Henry stayed at Rhea Springs, Tennessee for a period of two years in his effort to improve his health. However, this letter is the last one handed down in the exchange between Harriet and Henry so we have no record of their trials during the interim before his return home.





Galion (Ohio - CEB) Jan. 26th 1890

Dear Brother and Sister -- and all the rest --

I will try to answer your welcome letter which we received last Tuesday. Was glad to know that you was all as well as usual, for health is the greatest of earthly blessings. Yours found us and ours in usual good health except myself. I was very sick last Thursday night but am feeling much better now. This is nothing more than I expect for I don't ever expect another well day. But such is life.

Bella was taken sick the next morning after we got home. She did not go to school but a half day that week. She is alright now and is as happy as a lark. She had an attack of the grippe.

We have had very bad, lonesome, disagreeable weather most of the time since we came home. Raining most of the time. It has rained most of the day today and is very warm. The boys and families are well. I am very glad that we went to see you, for we had a good visit, notwithstanding the wind and hope we may have many more. Sometimes it looks as though it was the last, but I still live in hope that we shall all meet again.

There is more sickness in Galion at the present time than any time since we lived here, and a great many deaths.



They are having a great revival at the Methodist Church here. Julia has been every night for the last two weeks and she and Bella have gone tonight. I am all alone.

Times are rather dull here. The roads is so bad farmers cannot get to town with any load and it makes business dull.

Bella says tonight she wishes she was out to Aunt Hat's. I tell her she can go, but she says no -- not alone. If I will go she will go.

I must bring this scribbling to a close by hoping it will find you all well and asking you to write as often as convenient. Tell the boys Uncle Orin wishes them well and would like to hear from them.

Orin

NOTES: (CEB)

(1) This letter was sent to Henry and Harriet Milliman, she having been a sister of the author, Orin (Monroe)

(2) While the exact date is not now known, Orin passed away within a short time after having written this letter.

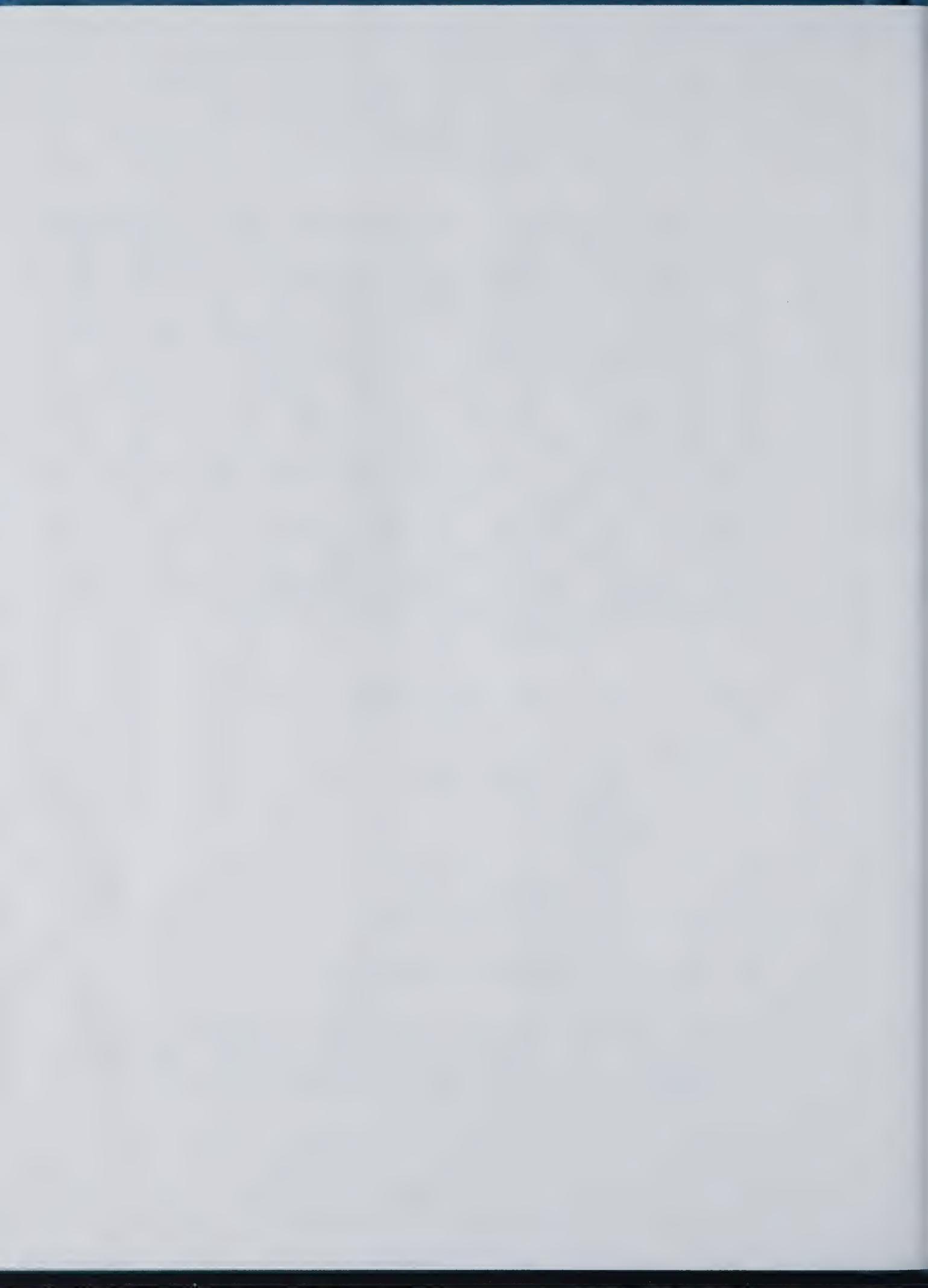


A HOME REMEDY

(It is not too unusual to find among the effects of pioneer families some kind of recipe for concocting medications hoped to provide relief for the variety of ailments that commonly have plagued mankind throughout the years that preceded modern medicines as we know them now. In early times, a doctor often was not readily available and people were desperate for relief from colds and fevers and various other forms of misery. Not unlike the medicines of primitive Indian tribes, such concoctions as were tried relied strongly on herbal plants which we now deem to be merely "weeds." Perhaps these potions did provide some relief for, if nothing more, they were a source of psychological relief, a 'placebo' as it were. {However, their reliance on such treatments may have been better advised than we have thought and we are now seeing an increasing interest in the possible medicinal qualities which may be inherent in these herbal resources.} The Milliman family apparently had some faith in the following recipe found among the collection of letters included in this record. While it is not so labeled, it may be assumed that this tonic was intended to relieve symptoms that might be associated with the common cold or the flu. CEB)

Take 1 oz. Skunk Cabbage Root
 1 oz. Dogwood Bark
 1 oz. Mandrake Root
 2 oz. Burdock Root
 2 oz. Yellow-dock Root
 1 oz. Dandelion Root
 1 oz. Goldenrod Root
 2 oz. Sassafrilla Root

Put all together into 32 oz. water and simmer down one-half. Then strain and add 1/2 pound sugar and simmer again 10 or 15 minutes. When cold, add 1 pint good whiskey. Dose 2 to 3 tablespoons 3 times a day, 1/2 hour before each meal.



In concluding this account of letters written 100 and more years ago, it would be inappropriate to stop abruptly without some closing remarks.

The writer has personal knowledge of later events in the lives of all of the Milliman families mentioned, being a descendant in this line engaged in the compilation of a forthcoming Milliman genealogy. This is not the case, however with the Monroe families so there is no documentation to provide a continuation beyond the information presented in these pages.

It is sincerely hoped that descendants of both the Milliman and Monroe families touched upon by these letters will appreciate having the opportunity to experience this look backward in time as it may apply to their kin in previous generations. It is further hoped that others, though not related, also may derive some pleasure from the rare privilege of an intimate glimpse of events and circumstances from bygone days.

An attempt to index names has been deliberately omitted because each occurrence most often is in the form of a given name only which defeats a meaningful indexing procedure.

Charles E. Benjamin



The following are Ghost Towns mentioned in Just a Peek Back:

Coletown
Hopewell
Orangeville
Hurst Town

Israel

Also on page 78 ("Israel" is believed to apply to the area in DeKalb Co., Ind., where the Alton cemetery is located (one mile north of the Church of Christ at Coburn's Corner). If this is correct, it is the same area that was later called "cheesetown" when cheese was being produced there and today is commonly referred to simply as "Alton.")

Scipio
Concord
Cheesetown
Alton
Coburn Corners (Coburntown) See also page 86
Maysville (outskirts of Fort Wayne) Page 20

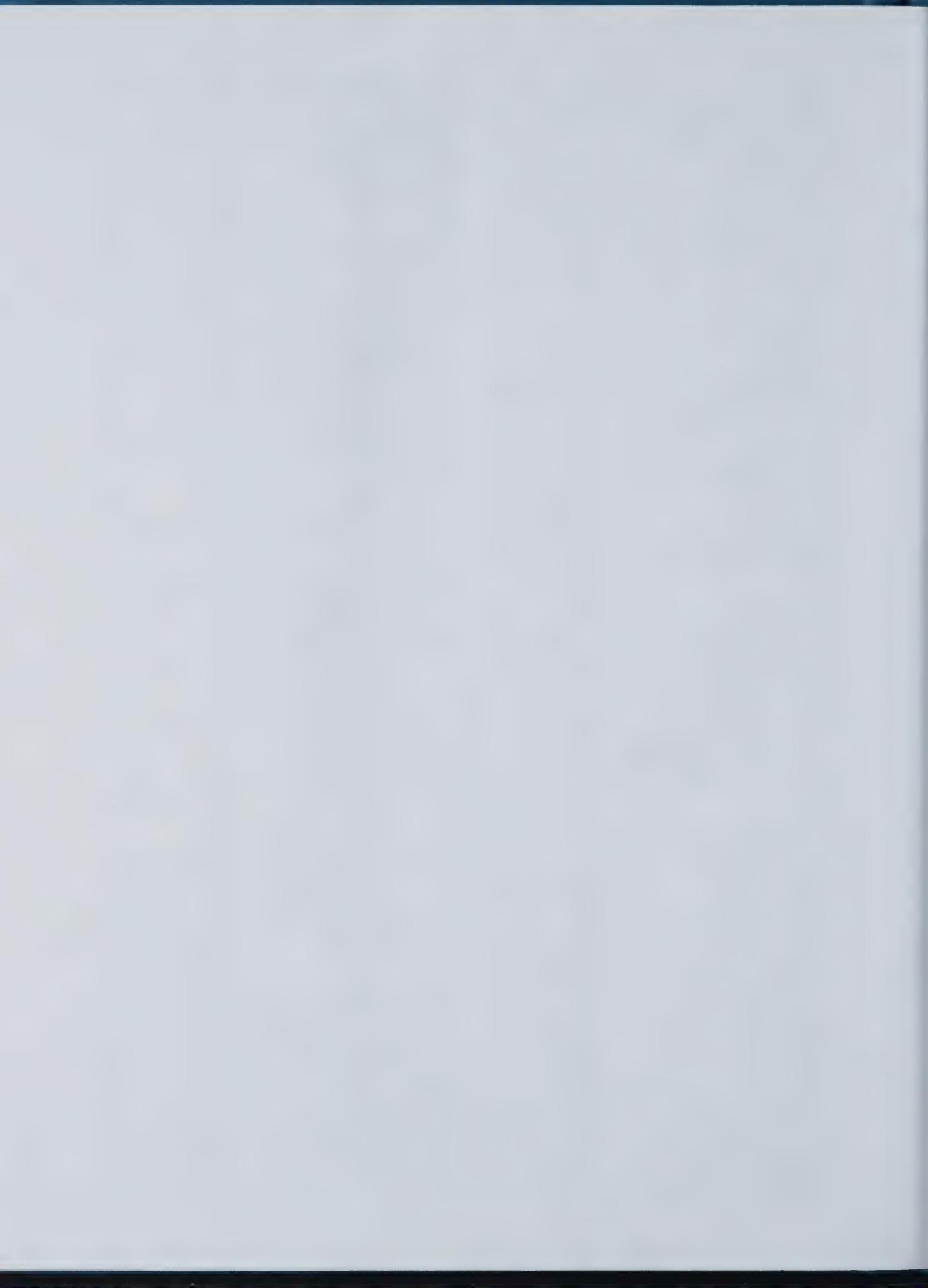
Cole town page 84

Blair Page 89

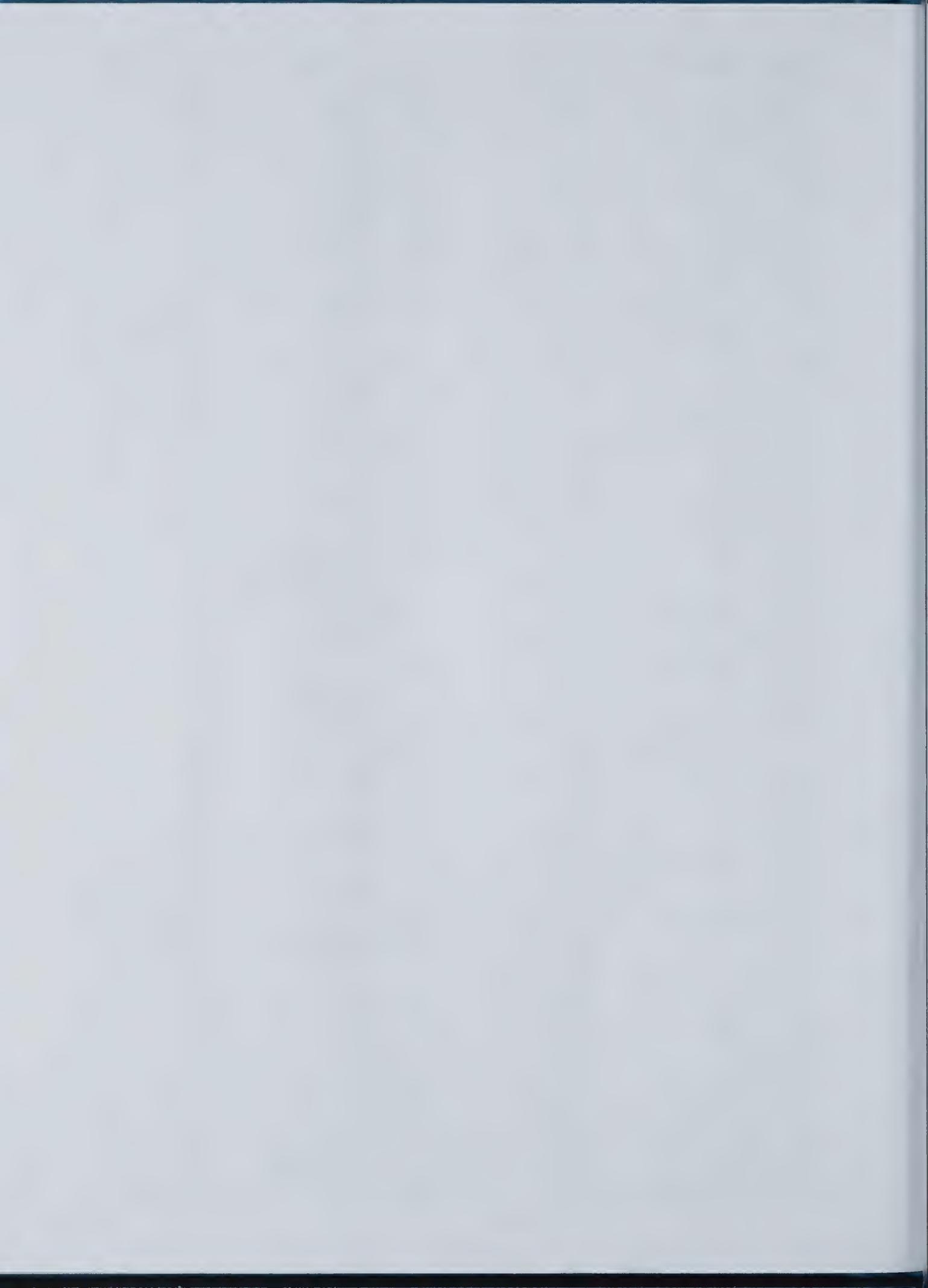


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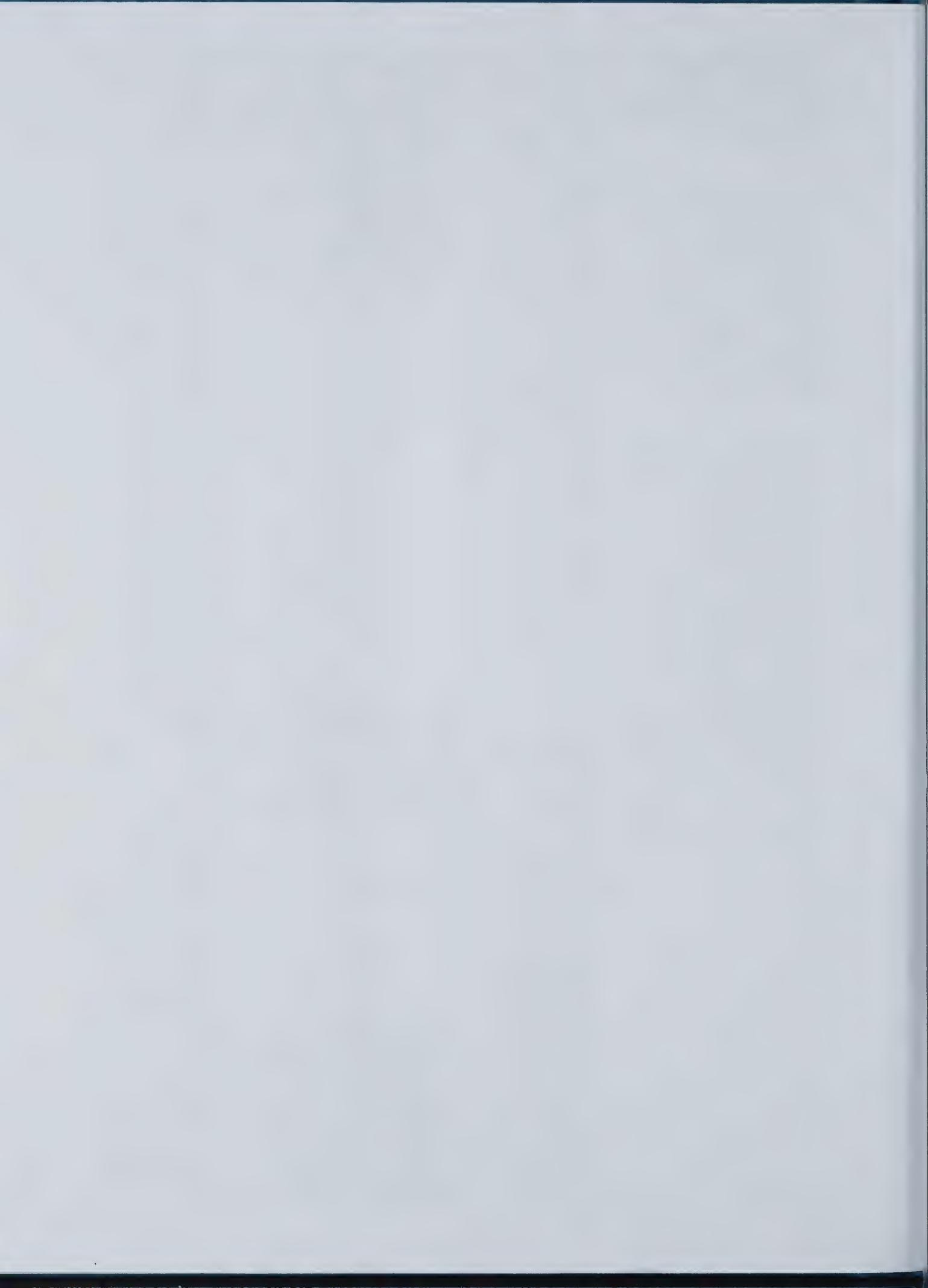
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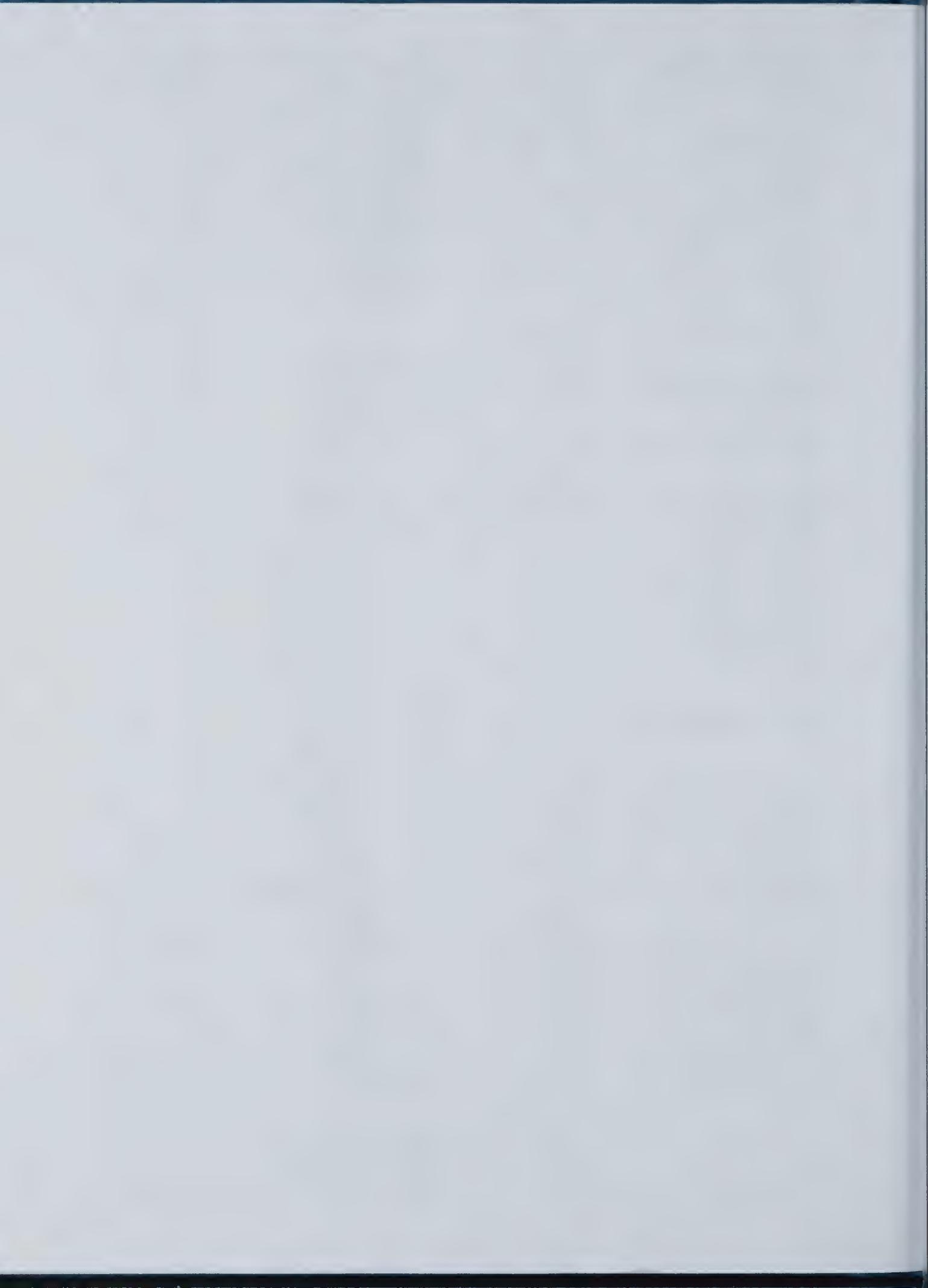
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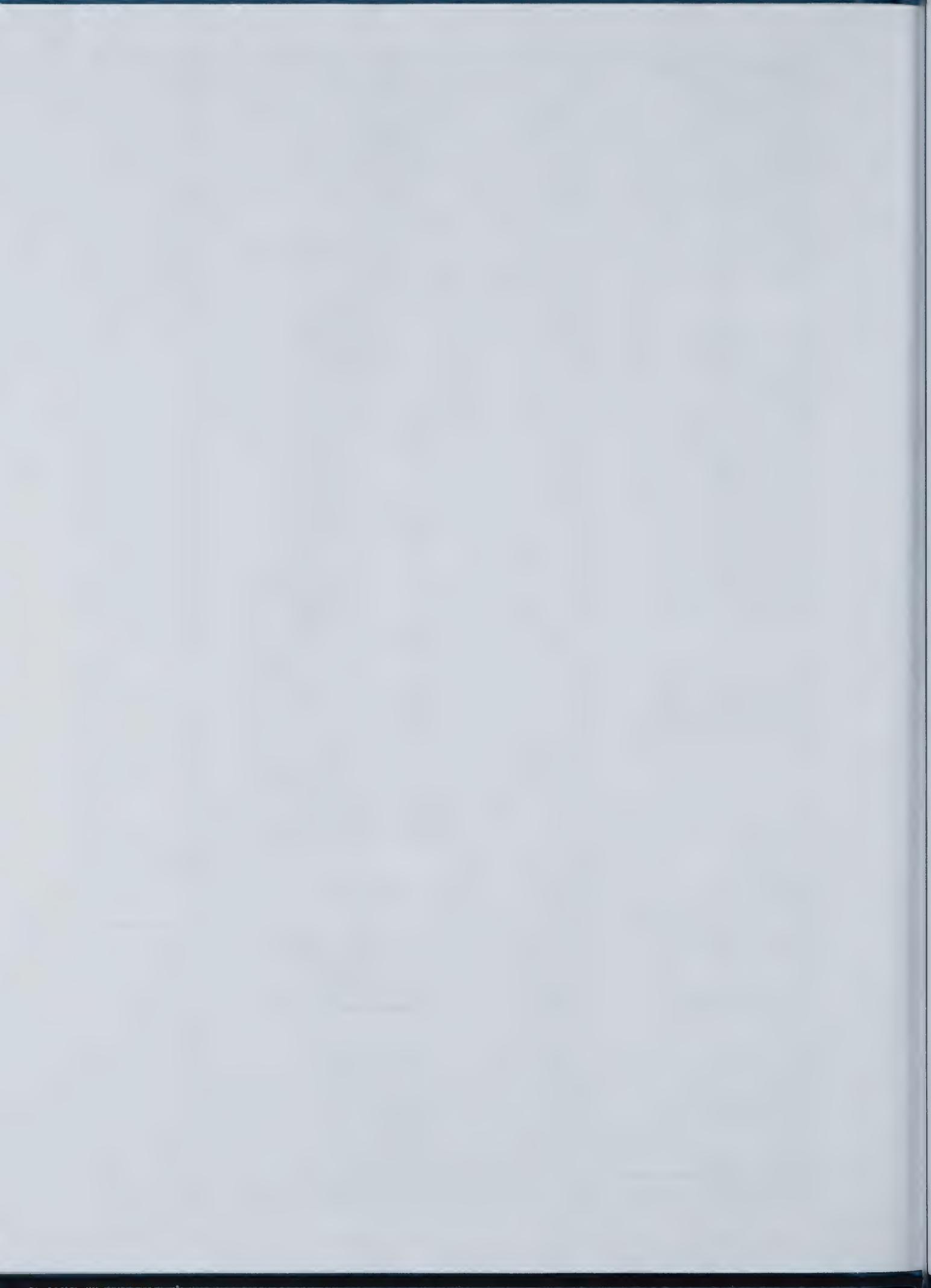
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